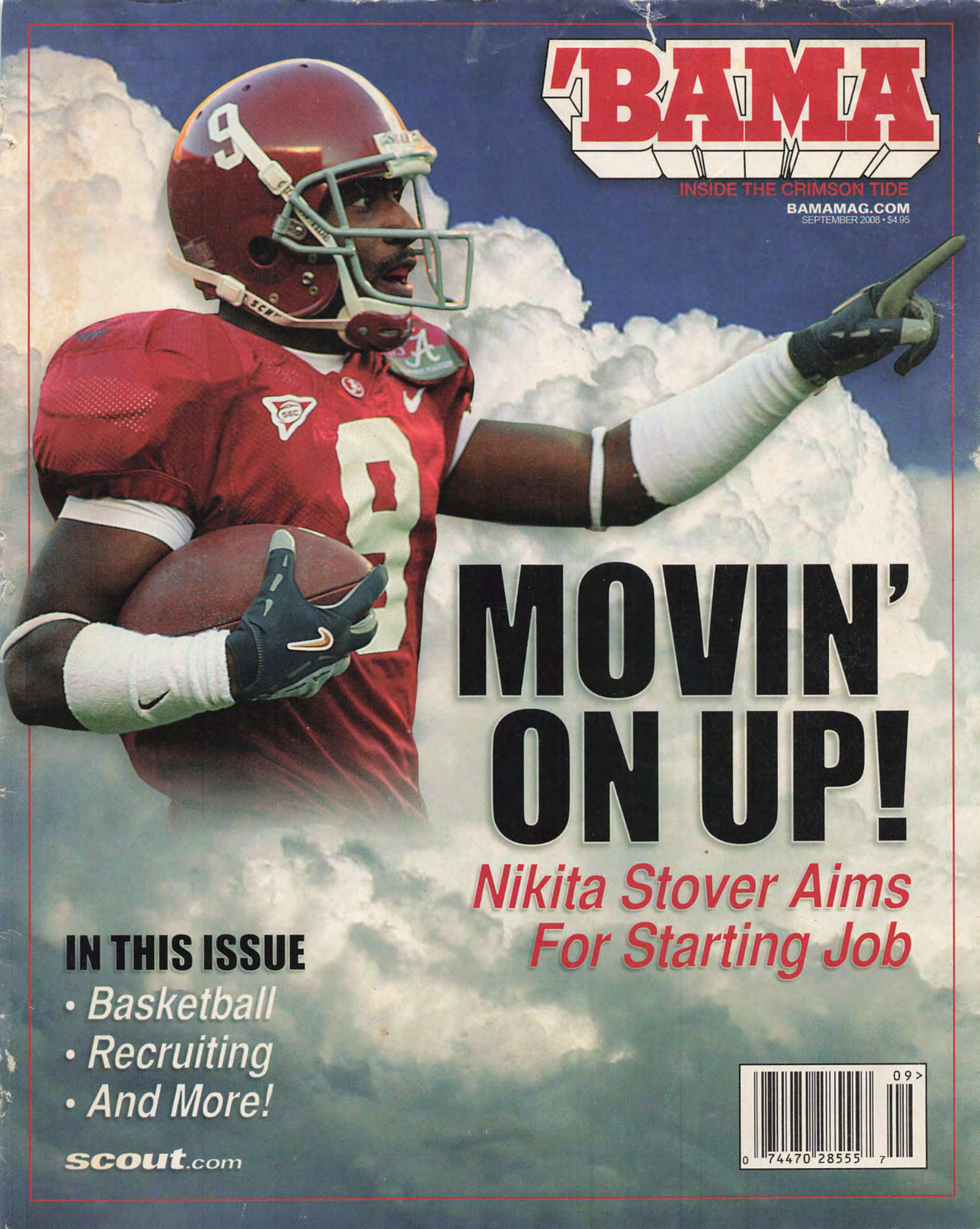




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# UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

## Army ROTC



### What is Army ROTC

Army ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) is a series of elective courses making up one of the best leadership courses in the country and can be part of your UA

experience. The program combines topics in military science with practical leadership training to prepare men and women to become Army officers. During classes and field training you will quickly build the confidence and self-discipline necessary to succeed in your studies and help prepare you for success after graduation. You will learn how to motivate and lead others, manage complex tasks, and communicate ideas effectively; the same traits prospective employers will be looking for when you graduate. Upon graduation from UA and the Army ROTC program, you will be fully prepared to take charge as a leader. Army ROTC uses effective classroom and practical "hands-on" training to prepare our highly motivated cadets to receive their commission as a Second Lieutenant (2LT) in the U.S. Army, the Army Reserve, or the Army National Guard.

### What are the benefits of Army ROTC?

Participants in the ROTC program develop critical skills in management and leadership, which are valuable to any civilian or military career. Students gain confidence, self-discipline, and technical experience. New lieutenants will enter the workforce as a leader and supervise as many as 45 individuals, while being responsible for hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of assets. If you decide to leave the military, civilian employers desire the leadership experience and technical knowledge that you have. Some of these skills and credentials include.

- Effective leadership and management skills
- Accomplished oral and written communications skills
- Superior problem-solving skills
- Meticulous organizational skills
- Military life attracts and instills substantial value-added qualities:
  - Discipline, Commitment, Loyalty, Resourcefulness, Respect

- Plus it instills the value of:
  - Teamwork, Diversity, and a drug-free lifestyle

**Financial Benefits:** There are a number of financial benefits that you can apply for and receive as an ROTC cadet, depending on your eligibility. Contact the Military Science department to find out the eligibility requirements for each of these benefits and which ones may apply to you:

- ROTC Scholarship - Full tuition and mandatory fees plus a \$1200/year book allowance
- CH 30 Montgomery GI Bill - \$1075/month (full-time)
- CH 1606 Selected Reserve Montgomery GI Bill - \$309/month (full-time)
- Montgomery GI Bill Kicker - \$350/month
- Federal Tuition Assistance (USAR only) - 100% tuition, up to \$4500/year
- State Tuition Reimbursement (ARNG only) - 100% tuition, up to \$4500/year
- Drill Pay as E-5 (FY04) - \$270/month
- ROTC Stipend - Freshmen: \$300/month  
Sophomore: \$350/month  
Junior: \$450/month  
Senior: \$500/month

### Will ROTC activities affect my class schedule?

Since Army ROTC is a scheduled class in the UA curriculum, ROTC will not affect your class schedule. Your grades are our top priority. The time commitment required for ROTC is minimal, consisting of one class (with lab) per semester. You will have enough time to balance your leadership training with your academic demands.

### Do I get to wear a uniform?

Army ROTC cadets are issued uniforms for wear on class and lab days ... the rest of the time you will look like the rest of the students on campus.

### Do I have to participate in a physical fitness class?

If you are a Junior, Senior or receiving a scholarship, you are required to participate in our Physical Training

(PT) 3-times per week. We strongly encourage all of our cadets to participate since it helps develop healthy habits and helps prepare you to pass the Army Physical Fitness Test which is a requirement if you should decide to apply for a scholarship.

### Do I have to go into the Army after college?

There is no military service obligation for taking the Freshman and Sophomore Army ROTC class (unless you apply for and accept a scholarship). These classes are a great way of looking at the Army to see if it might be something for you to consider for a career ... or even a jump start to a civilian career after getting a few years of experience after college. If you decide to go through all 4-years of Army ROTC you will have a military service obligation and will begin that service as a leader in a very highly respected profession.

### What happens when I finish college?

When you graduate from college as an Army ROTC Cadet, you will have a degree in YOUR chosen field and commission as a Second Lieutenant. Your career as an Officer will be just beginning, and you'll find a variety of interesting and exciting career fields (16 to choose from) in the Army.

### What if I have more questions?

That's easy! Just stop by the Military Science Building and talk to the Army ROTC Enrollment Officer, MAJ Calvin Summers, Bureau Of Mines Building, Room 111. If you prefer you can give him a call at 205-348-1056 or send him an e-mail at [cjsummers@ua.edu](mailto:cjsummers@ua.edu). He will be glad to answer any questions that you have.



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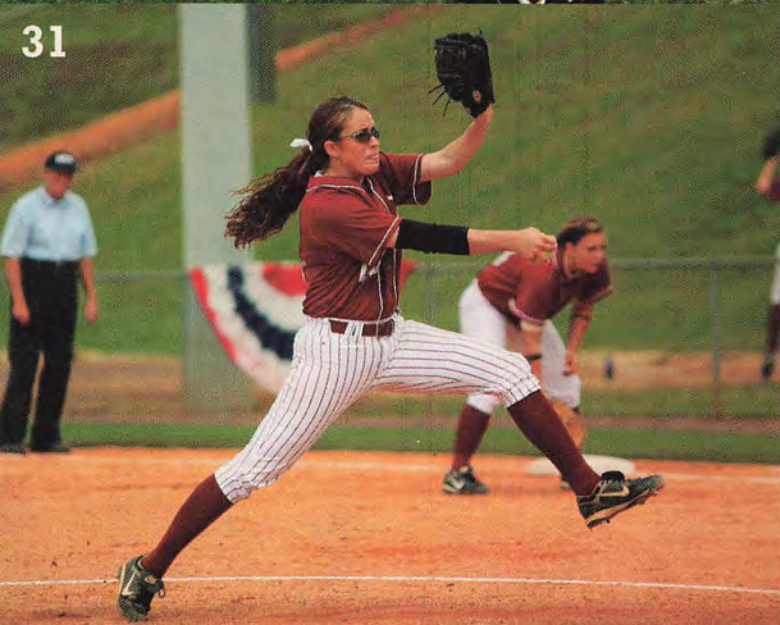
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**September 2008**

Volume 31 • Issue One

## Features

- 7 Replacement Policy**  
New men must perform for Tide this season  
by Kirk McNair
- 12 Football Notebook**  
Good news over-shadowed by the bad  
by Kirk McNair
- 16 College Football Survey**  
Magazine publishers examine 2008 landscape  
by Scout
- 22 Big Spikes To Fill**  
Thompson one of Bama golf's best ever  
by Kirk McNair
- 24 Look For Improvement**  
Return of Steele is key piece of hoops puzzle  
by Cary L. Clark
- 27 Bound For Beijing**  
Tide athletes take aim at Olympics success  
by Andrew Varble II
- 29 Playing In Season**  
Baseball players have off-season in summer  
by Kirk McNair
- 31 Best yet**  
Softball has most successful season in history  
by Kirk McNair
- 33 Prep Prospects**  
A look at top skill players in Alabama  
by Andrew Bone
- 38 Late Additions**  
Signing new players on-going in all sports  
by Kirk McNair
- 40 Where Are They Now?**  
Shealy's tie to Bryant is hard to overlook  
by Erik Stinnett

## Department

- 6 Letter From Editor
- 11 Football Depth Chart
- 37 Football Hot List
- 42 'BAMA Scorecard
- 46 Fall Sports Schedules

Cover photo of Nikita Stover by Kent Gidley





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## Letter from the Editor

### Dear Fellow Crimson Tide Fans,

**T**wo seasons are upon us, both of them interesting and likely to be intense. One is football season, the other the political season. For the most part, these competitions are dissimilar in tone and substance and importance.

A similarity, though, is that the public follows both, in great part through the media. And in both arenas, the principals regularly can be expected to blame their blunders on the reporters. There will be accusations of misquoting the principals. When that won't fly the accusation often will be that accurate quotes are "taken out of context."

Once upon a time the columnists were the most prominent news personnel. When Washington Post reporters Woodard and Bernstein uncovered the burglary of a Democratic campaign office in 1972, the result was the resignation in disgrace of a man who had won an overwhelming victory for President. That changed the role of reporters--in politics, for better or worse, and in sports, mostly for worse. The new breed of reporters felt the road to the top was in uncovering scandal, too often by attempting to make mountains of molehills.

The most important political race is for President, the major parties having selected men they consider the best America has to offer to lead the nation. This seems a good time to leave the subject of Republicans vs. Democrats.

The arena of our interest is college football, specifically Alabama football. Crimson Tide Coach Nick Saban has been the victim of "gotcha" reporting, and he has made it clear he has little respect for the media. (Ironically, several times a year he will tell reporters with a straight face that he has respect for their jobs, but when speaking to others he leaves no doubt that he considers the media to be his adversary.)

From our standpoint, it dates from his final days in Miami. He was attempting to coach the Dolphins into the NFL playoffs when rumors surfaced that Saban would depart Miami for Tuscaloosa. Anyone who has paid attention to Saban could be convinced that he was so focused on his NFL job that he wouldn't know what was going on at Bama. Even if he did, it would be counterproductive to his Miami job to acknowledge it. And he said with what I suspect was 100 per cent honesty that he would not be going to Alabama.

As things turned out, and with the blessing of the owner of the Dolphins, a few weeks later Saban accepted Tide Athletics Director Mal Moore's offer to return to the college game. It was best for everyone concerned, particularly for the Saban family.

The Miami media viewed Saban's decision as treason, his change of heart as perjury. Those with no dog in the fight jumped into the fray. Those with animosity towards one of the traditional bullies of college football were rejuvenated.

A few months later Saban quoted a friend from his days at LSU about how Saban was reviled by some LSU partisans. Some managed to turn that into a Saban disrespect of LSU, which is far from the truth.

No wonder Saban wants to keep his distance from reporters. But even though he provides very limited press opportunities, Saban ranks with Paul Bryant and Gene Stallings as being very forthcoming with information. Unlike Bryant and Stallings, Saban seems to enjoy making the situation as unpleasant as possible. Saban also offers productive off-the-record gatherings with reporters who cover Alabama.

A major part of the problem is sports talk radio being considered by coaches to be part of the media. The Internet is close behind talk radio in anonymous irresponsibility. Saban tars all those in the business of sports coverage with the same brush.

I would never presume to argue I have never made an error in reporting, but I have not done so intentionally. And I try to consider the facts of each situation.

For instance: Say a football coach, for instance Pat Dye at Auburn, lost his pants. I wouldn't presume that every other coach had lost his pants. ■

Sincerely,  
Kirk McNair  
Editor

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# Replacement Policy

## New men must perform for Tide this season

**T**here is a very close friend who delights in reminding an old sports reporter of something the writer penned as a young sports publicist prior to the 1974 Alabama football season. Coach Paul Bryant's Crimson Tide had graduated a number of top players from the 1973 national championship team. Among them was All-America Wayne Wheeler, the lone starting wide receiver in the wishbone offense.

"Alabama will not be able to replace Wayne Wheeler at split end," was the confident entry in the pre-season prospectus. The writer had never seen an incoming freshman by the name of Ozzie Newsome.

Suffice it to say that a true freshman can get the job done at the highest levels of college football.

Although Newsome was a special talent, it is true that wide receiver is a position where freshmen traditionally have been able to contribute. And that is a position where Alabama is replacing starters from the 2007 season.

Freshmen will not be the only ones vying for starting

jobs that have been vacated. Indeed, it is possible new starters will emerge where a 2007 first teamer is back. Alabama Head Coach Nick Saban and his staff will attempt to put the best player on the field at each position, regardless of previous status.

Still, greatest interest is on replacing those starters who have departed. Historically, those who are returning starters are unlikely to lose their spots at Alabama or anywhere else.

Although every position is important, it is difficult to look at Alabama's needs and not begin with conjecture about the linebacker positions.

For the second consecutive year, Bama is having to rebuild at the critical spots in the Crimson Tide's 3-4 defense. Last year the graduated Darren Mustin was the starting weakside linebacker on the inside. Keith Saunders, who also has graduated, was the jack linebacker, that hybrid linebacker-defensive end position that gives Alabama's defense a variety of "looks."

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There was no more than faint hope that strongside linebacker Zeke Knight would be back for his final season. Just a few weeks before players reported on July 31, Saban announced that Knight had not been given medical clearance and would not play this year.

There were also a couple of veteran back-up linebackers, Demarcus Waldrop and Marcel Stamps, graduated from last year's squad.

The big news of the summer was that a spring experiment was over. Following last season, Saban moved back-up tailback Jimmy Johns to linebacker, first to weakside, then to strongside. Johns won the Woodrow Lowe Award for his spring work, but in the summer was dismissed from the team after being charged with felony drug trafficking. Also in the summer it was learned that Prince Hall, a starter at middle linebacker in 2006 as a freshman and a co-starter with Rolando McClain last season, would be suspended for at least part of the 2008 season.

A year earlier Bama had lost two linebackers to graduation, Juwan Simpson and Terrence Jones.

No wonder Saban said this summer that linebacker recruiting would be a priority "until we recruit our way out of where we are."

The Tide staff is getting the job done in linebacker recruiting. It is almost certain that at least one incoming freshman will have an opportunity to be a contributor to the Alabama defense at linebacker this fall.

Those most regularly mentioned, based on being prominent prospects last year, are 6-3, 208-pound Jerrell Harris and 6-2, 245-pound Dont'a Hightower. It is also possible that 6-2, 208-pound Chris Jordan, who was a running back and linebacker prospect, could get his first look on defense. Courtney Upshaw, 6-2, 225, said that he was recruited to be a jack linebacker.

Saban and his staff shouldn't be shy about playing a freshman. After all, one of the top players on last year's Alabama defense was freshman middle linebacker Rolando McClain. Now the 6-4, 255-pound sophomore is the old man of the linebacking corps. One can only imagine how Saban felt when he heard that McClain had been injured in a summer motorcycle accident. McClain reportedly recovered from minor injuries.

In a summer interview with the Montgomery Advertiser discussing the dismissal of Johns, Saban said, "It's going to be an opportunity for someone else to play. We've got some good young players, good freshmen. If we end up starting two or three freshmen who really want to play, really want to do things the right way, really want to represent the organization in a first-class way, I think we'll be far better off in the long run."

Moving up from back-up positions to the top of the depth chart is a possibility. In that case, Brandon Fanney would be listed number one at jack. He's a 6-4, 241-pound sophomore. Chavis Williams (6-4, 214) played at strongside last year as a freshman when Knight was injured. Most of 6-2, 225-pound junior Eryk Anders' playing time has been on special teams.

Two men moved from old positions to linebacker spots



Cory Reamer ended spring as top weakside linebacker

University of Alabama



Bobby Greenwood had ankle problem as junior



University of Alabama

Brandon Deaderick is good fit in 3-4 defense



University of Alabama

in the spring. Cory Reamer (6-4, 223, junior) went from strong safety to weakside linebacker and was first team at the end of spring. Last year's starting fullback Baron Huber (in an offense that rarely used a fullback), a 6-3, 242-pound junior, also moved to weakside linebacker.

There has been speculation that either McClain or Hall might move to weakside so they could be in the game together, but there has been no evidence of that shift. Charles Higgenbotham had a good spring game at middle linebacker.

Other replacement parts would seem to be not so complicated or so dire.

Alabama lost a good football player in Wallace Gilberry. The defensive right end played about as close to his potential as one could ask. He was known as one of the finest pass-rushers in the SEC after turning in 10 sacks and 15 quarterback hurries. In the spring, 2007 starting left end Brandon Deaderick (6-4, 286) was at right end and that could be the solution (leaving a hole to fill at left end).

In the A-Day Game, one of the big surprises was little-used Alfred McCullough, who had been listed as a defensive tackle, winning the Dwight Stephenson Most Valuable Lineman Award. The 6-2, 317-pounder had six tackles, one sack, and two pass break-ups.

Although he was slowed by injury last year, Bobby Greenwood is a proven veteran. The 6-5, 257-pound senior had his best year in 2005, when he made the SEC All-Freshman team.

There are other possibilities. One is a shake-up in the defensive line, last year's nose tackle starter Lorenzo Washington (6-4, 283, junior) moving to end to make way for the likes of soph Josh Chapman (6-1, 300) or junior college transfer Terrence Cody (6-5, 385).

Sophs Luther Davis (6-4, 275) and Nick Gentry (6-3, 263)

are possibilities, and so are true freshmen Marcel Dareus (6-5, 285) and Michael Williams (6-6, 240).

Theoretically, the secondary lost two starters, cornerback Simeon Castille and safety safety Marcus Carter. But because Bama often played in five- and six-man defensive back schemes, there are more possibilities for new faces. Bama also lost sometimes starter Lionel Mitchell, whose career was ended by a back injury.

Starters back in the secondary are senior safety Rashad Johnson and sophomore cornerback Kareem Jackson. Justin Woodall emerged as the leading candidate at the second safety spot. Ali Sharrief and Sam Burnthall are other returning candidates. Among the incoming freshmen expected to contend at the safety spots are Mark Barron and Robert Lester.

The cornerback vacancy seemed to get filled in dramatic fashion in the spring as Javier Arenas, best known for his exceptional kick return skills, showed that he can be a fine cornerback, even at 5-9, 193. Marquis Johnson, Chris Rogers and Tyrone King have some experience at cornerback. Alonzo Lawrence, who gained fame for his performance playing against Tide signee Julio Jones in an all-star game, is a promising freshman cornerback.

Many examinations of 2008 Alabama football have noted the loss of three prominent wide receivers, including all-time statistical leader D.J. Hall. Keith Brown and Matt Caddell, both of who had big Crimson Tide moments as receivers, were also graduates.

Alabama will probably need a lot of wide receivers in its offense this year. There are a handful on board with playing experience, a few who have been in the program but not played, and some outstanding newcomers.

Of the returning players with experience, Nikita Stover has been the most productive. He has good speed, excellent



hands, and the courage to go across the middle to snare passes. Mike McCoy is the next most experienced receiver and he has shown flashes. Bama may be without Will Oakley for awhile as the hard-luck flanker suffered a broken bone in his foot in late June.

Earl Alexander is a sophomore with less experience than the others who have played. Brandon Gibson, Marquis Maze and Darius Hanks were held out as freshmen last year. Hanks was particularly impressive on the 2007 scout team and in 2008 spring drills.

Incoming freshmen are anxiously awaited. They include the remarkable Burton Scott, seen as the next David Palmer-Tyrone Prothro type star, and last year's number one wide receiver prospect in the nation, Julio Jones.

Jones is unanimously expected to be a part of the playing rotation this season.

Because Alabama returns two of the finest offensive linemen in the nation, there has not been much public attention on the importance of replacements in the offensive line.

Andre Smith may be more than just "one of the best" offensive linemen in America. He is virtually a unanimous pre-season choice for All-America. The 6-5, 340-pound junior left tackle won the Jacobs Award last year. The Jacobs Award is given to the league's best blocker as selected by the coaches of the SEC.

Although not at the same level as Smith, Antoine Caldwell is also outstanding. The 6-3, 292-pound senior is listed as Bama's center, where he has been a three-year starter, but he is also capable of playing guard or tackle. And that may be part of the solution.

The Tide also returns starting right guard Marlon Davis (6-4, 290, senior) and Mike Johnson (6-6, 298, junior), who took over at right tackle last fall but was working at left guard in the spring.

The only lost starter was left guard Justin Britt. The Tide lost back-up (and former starter) Chris Capps to graduation and two back-up linemen, Cody Davis and B.J. Stabler, to injury.

Ideally, the only starting replacement will be at right tackle. In the spring Drew Davis, a 6-8, 276-pound junior who has seen almost no game action, was the first teamer.

Alabama has not played many back-up offensive linemen in the past quarter century and as a result there always seems to be a lack of depth at tackle, guard and



Drew Davis may get next try at right tackle

Stuart McNair

center spots. An exception this year is that back-up center Evan Cardwell (6-2, 278, junior) got four starts at center last season while Caldwell was sitting out a suspension. Cardwell is no Caldwell, but it may be the solution will be to put Caldwell at right tackle (or left guard with Johnson back to right tackle). Brian Motley, who has never played the position, is listed as the number three center. Motley, 6-2, 280, was a nose tackle last year as a freshman, but injuries have held him back.

It is Assistant Coach Joe Pendry's style to train his offensive linemen to play more than that one position, so the mix and match possibilities are many.

David Ross (6-4, 297) is a soph hopeful and William Vlachos (6-1, 295), Patrick Crump (6-3, 267), and Taylor Pharr (6-6, 281) redshirt freshmen.

An adage has it that freshmen have the most difficult time playing at quarterback and that the second most difficult positions for first year players are in the offensive line. Alabama, though, over the years has had a number of true freshmen earn playing time and even starting jobs in the offensive line.

One of the most anticipated freshmen is offensive lineman Tyler Love. The 6-7, 270-pounder was rumored to have had a stress fracture in the summer. Other top offensive line prospects include Barrett Jones (6-5, 270) and John Michael Boswell (6-5, 290).

As for quarterback, there have been no reports from the Alabama camp that any of the back-ups—Greg McElroy, Nick Fanuzzi or Thomas Darrah—are pushing senior John Parker Wilson. It could be that highly-regarded freshman Star Jackson will come in and earn the back-up spot.



# 2008 Alabama Football Depth Chart

Here is a guess—strictly a guess—at how Alabama's football depth chart might look as the Crimson Tide prepares for its opening game against Clemson on August 30. It includes some true freshmen, but it does not include every Bama player.

## OFFENSE

|             |    |                                              |
|-------------|----|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>WR</b>   | 80 | Mike McCoy (6-3, 199, Junior)                |
|             | 8  | Julio Jones (6-4, 212, Freshman)             |
|             | 7  | Will Oakley (6-1, 196, Senior)               |
| <b>WR</b>   | 82 | Earl Alexander (6-5, 210, Soph)              |
|             | 1  | Burton Scott (5-10, 190, Freshman)           |
|             | 11 | Brandon Gibson (6-1, 192, Freshman)          |
|             | 86 | Chris Jackson (6-1, 190, Freshman)           |
| <b>WR</b>   | 9  | Nikita Stover (6-0, 207, Senior)             |
|             | 15 | Darius Hanks (6-0, 190, Freshman)            |
|             | 4  | Marquis Maze (5-9, 167, Freshman)            |
| <b>LT</b>   | 71 | <b>Andre Smith (6-5, 340, Junior)</b>        |
|             | 72 | Tyler Love (6-7, 270, Freshman)              |
|             | 60 | Scott Deaton (6-6, 286, Junior)              |
| <b>LG</b>   | 78 | <b>Mike Johnson (6-6, 298, Junior)</b>       |
|             | 74 | David Ross (6-4, 297, Soph)                  |
|             | 97 | John Michael Boswell (6-5, 290, Freshman)    |
| <b>C</b>    | 59 | <b>Antoine Caldwell (6-3, 292, Senior)</b>   |
|             | 70 | Evan Cardwell (6-2, 278, Junior)             |
|             | 66 | Brian Motley (6-2, 280, Soph)                |
|             | 75 | Barrett Jones (6-5, 270, Freshman)           |
| <b>RG</b>   | 76 | <b>Marlon Davis (6-4, 290, Junior)</b>       |
|             | 73 | William Vlachos (6-1, 295, Freshman)         |
| <b>RT</b>   | 79 | Drew Davis (6-8, 276, Junior)                |
|             | 68 | Taylor Pharr (6-6, 281, Freshman)            |
| <b>TE</b>   | 83 | Travis McCall (6-2, 261, Senior)             |
|             | 88 | <b>Nick Walker (6-5, 255, Senior)</b>        |
|             | 87 | Chris Underwood (6-4, 226, Freshman)         |
|             | 85 | Preston Dial (6-3, 223, Soph)                |
|             | 84 | Colin Peek (6-6, 250, Junior)                |
| <b>QB</b>   | 14 | <b>John Parker Wilson (6-2, 213, Senior)</b> |
|             | 2  | Star Jackson (6-3, 185, Freshman)            |
|             | 12 | Greg McElroy (6-3, 218, Soph)                |
|             | 18 | Nick Fanuzzi (6-3, 201, Soph)                |
|             | 16 | Thomas Darrah (6-5, 190, Freshman)           |
| <b>TB</b>   | 29 | <b>Terry Grant (5-10, 188, Soph)</b>         |
|             | 38 | Glen Coffee (6-1, 225, Junior)               |
|             | 5  | Roy Upchurch (6-0, 192, Junior)              |
|             | 6  | Demetrius Goode (5-10, 197, Freshman)        |
|             | 34 | Jeramie Griffin (6-0, 225, Freshman)         |
|             | 30 | Jonathan Lowe (5-6, 180, Senior)             |
| <b>PK</b>   | 99 | <b>Leigh Tiffin (6-1, 198, Junior)</b>       |
|             | 81 | Andrew Friedman (6-1, 202, Junior)           |
|             | 44 | Corey Smith (6-0, 190, Freshman)             |
| <b>HOLD</b> | 97 | <b>P.J. Fitzgerald (5-11, 194, Junior)</b>   |

## DEFENSE

|               |     |                                              |
|---------------|-----|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>LE</b>     | 97  | <b>Lorenzo Washington (6-4, 283, Junior)</b> |
|               | 93  | Bobby Greenwood (6-5, 267, Senior)           |
|               | 52  | Alfred McCullough (6-2, 317, Freshman)       |
|               | 89  | Michael Williams (6-6, 240, Freshman)        |
|               | 90  | Milton Talbert (6-3, 252, Soph)              |
| <b>NT</b>     | 99  | Josh Chapman (6-1, 300, Soph)                |
|               | 62  | Terrence Cody (6-5, 385, Junior)             |
| <b>RE</b>     | 95  | <b>Brandon Deaderick (6-4, 286, Junior)</b>  |
|               | 96  | Luther Davis (6-4, 275, Soph)                |
|               | 57  | Marcel Dareus (6-5, 285, Freshman)           |
|               | 58  | Nick Gentry (6-3, 263, Soph)                 |
| <b>SAM</b>    | 55  | Chavis Williams (6-4, 214, Soph)             |
|               | 5   | Jerrell Harris (6-3, 208, Freshman)          |
|               | 32  | Eryk Anders (6-2, 225, Junior)               |
| <b>MIKE</b>   | 25  | <b>Rolando McClain (6-4, 255, Soph)</b>      |
|               | 45  | Charles Higgenbotham (6-1, 211, Soph)        |
|               | *21 | Prince Hall (5-11, 265, Junior)              |
| <b>WILL</b>   | 13  | Cory Reamer (6-4, 223, Junior)               |
|               | 56  | Dont'a Hightower (6-2, 245, Freshman)        |
|               | 40  | Baron Huber (6-3, 242, Junior)               |
|               | 42  | Jennings Hester (6-2, 224, Freshman)         |
| <b>JACK</b>   | 98  | Brandon Fanney (6-4, 241, Soph)              |
|               | 41  | Courtney Upshaw (6-2, 225, Freshman)         |
|               | 91  | Alex Watkins (6-3, 218, Freshman)            |
|               | 35  | Charlie Kirschman (6-2, 228, Soph)           |
| <b>LC</b>     | 28  | Javier Arenas (5-9, 193, Junior)             |
|               | 24  | Marquis Johnson (5-11, 186, Junior)          |
|               | 39  | Tyrone King (5-11, 204, Junior)              |
| <b>RC</b>     | 3   | <b>Kareem Jackson (5-11, 185, Soph)</b>      |
|               | 15  | Alonzo Lawrence (6-0, 180, Freshman)         |
|               | 8   | Chris Rogers (6-0, 192, Junior)              |
| <b>SS</b>     | 27  | Justin Woodall (6-2, 224, Junior)            |
|               | 4   | Mark Barron (6-2, 205, Freshman)             |
|               | 43  | Sam Burnthall (6-2, 185, Junior)             |
| <b>S</b>      | 49  | <b>Rashad Johnson (6-0, 187, Senior)</b>     |
|               | 26  | Ali Sharrief (5-9, 197, Junior)              |
|               | 37  | Robert Lester (6-2, 205, Freshman)           |
| <b>SNAP</b>   | 50  | <b>Brian Selman (6-0, 210, Senior)</b>       |
|               | 53  | Paul Silvey (5-11, 215, Freshman)            |
| <b>PUNT</b>   | 97  | <b>P.J. Fitzgerald (5-11, 194, Junior)</b>   |
|               | 98  | Heath Thomas (6-3, 213, Junior)              |
|               | 44  | Corey Smith (6-0, 190, Freshman)             |
| <b>PR/KOR</b> | 28  | <b>Javier Arenas (5-9, 193, Junior)</b>      |
|               | 30  | <b>Jonathan Lowe (5-6, 180, Senior)</b>      |
|               | 4   | Marquis Maze (5-9, 167, Freshman)            |

\*Prince Hall expected to be suspended early in season.

Returning starters in **Bold**



# Summer Notebook

## Good news over-shadowed by the bad

College football is not hypothetical. The games are going to be played and there are going to be winners and losers. Nonetheless, it's difficult not to attempt to predict the outcome of a season that will soon be played.

The Southeastern Conference looked at a handful of football publications, annuals (in that they are published only once a year, in the summer), and added up the predictions. Those publications predict Alabama finishing 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation.

The publications were Athlon, Lindy's, The Sporting News, Phil Steele, and Blue Ribbon. Only one of those picked Ohio State to win the national championship, but the composite pick has the Buckeyes (easy pickings for SEC teams in recent years) as the national champ. Southern Cal, which didn't get any votes for number one and only one for number two, is picked to finish second in the nation. Georgia, which got two first place votes, but was voted ninth by one publication and fifth by another, and Oklahoma tied for third.

Other SEC teams in the rankings were Florida fifth, LSU tied for eighth, Auburn 11<sup>th</sup>, Tennessee 20<sup>th</sup>, and South Carolina 27<sup>th</sup>.

Some predictions are easy. As a general rule, any football "news" in the summer is bad news. Additionally, it is inevitable that there will be some bad news in an operation as big as Alabama football.

Even though all returning players and new signees were on campus for all or part of the summer, there is a limit to coaching staff control over those players, who participate in voluntary off-season work without coaching supervision. All players were to officially report for fall camp on July 31 with practices leading up to the opening game against Clemson on August 30.

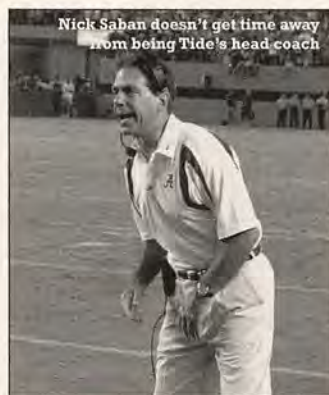
In the 2008 BAMA Football Yearbook, we mentioned the problems of discipline that have been a part of recent Alabama football teams. A prediction in that article was that "the first incident involving a rules violation or bad judgment or failure to perform in academic and citizenship areas is likely to draw wrath."

It was no surprise that a violation occurred. The extent of the allegation, though, was astounding. Upcoming senior Jimmy Johns was arrested and charged with trafficking illegal drugs. The University of Alabama has a policy that those charged with a felony offense will be dismissed. Johns beat that rap by withdrawing from summer school before The University could toss him.

But Johns couldn't quit fast enough to avoid being fired by Alabama Coach Nick Saban. In a terse statement issued shortly after the revelation of Johns' arrest, Saban, who was on vacation, said, "Jimmy Johns has been dismissed from the team. This type of behavior obviously will not be tolerated and he is no longer a part of our program."

Johns had been the object of an investigation by the West Alabama Narcotics Task Force (made up of all area law enforcement agencies). He was arrested and charged with five counts of distribution of cocaine and one count of possession of ecstasy pills, felony charges. Bail was set at \$120,000.

Although a police spokesman was quoted as saying that Johns apparently worked alone and without knowledge by any of his Alabama football teammates, his behavior followed a string of off-the-



Nick Saban doesn't get time away from being Tide's head coach

University of Alabama

Linebacker Award for his spring work.

Saban has long emanated exasperation with the Jimmy Johns situation at Alabama. Few players have drawn the curiosity of fans and the media as did the former Mr. Football from Mississippi. There had been high hopes for him at tailback and his move to linebacker in the spring was reported by his teammates as a good move. But Saban was always cautioning, attempting to lower expectations regarding Johns.

In a mid-summer interview with the Montgomery Advertiser, Saban pointed out that Johns had not played a significant role in any Crimson Tide success in 2007 and had given no indication he would play a significant role this season.

The bad news typically over-shadowed some nice things about Alabama football in the summer.

In late spring and early summer, Saban and his staff were involved in summer football camps, which bring prospects onto campus to be viewed and met and measured and timed. Assistant coaches also had responsibilities in the recruiting area, visiting high schools to talk to coaches and guidance counselors.

A new NCAA rule -- unofficially designated "the Saban rule" -- prohibits head football coaches from making those off-campus visits. Saban estimated he had visited over 100 high schools in his first season at Alabama and he is passionately opposed to the new rule.

Among the biggest items of summer college football news was the revelation that Saban had met "face-to-face" with defensive end William Ming of Athens High School. The method was a video conference via the Internet. Saban had used it when head coach of the Miami Dolphins, and since Athens has a "distance learning lab" Ming was able to connect with the Crimson Tide head coach. This is considered a telephone call by NCAA recruiting rules, and there are no limits on phone calls that can be made from prospects to a college coach.

Saban, to the consternation of many opponents, had beaten "the Saban rule."

Saban also used the spring to travel around the state to meet with groups of fans (and a couple of out-of-state meetings). The "Crimson Caravan" put Alabama's head coach face-to-face with thousands of Bama followers.

Late in the tour he addressed an overflow crowd in The Zone

field issues by Alabama players. Johns, too, has had problems in the past, having been suspended from the team in the spring of 2007 for academic deficiency.

Johns was a back-up tailback the past three years, but following Alabama's 2007 season was moved to middle linebacker. Late in the spring he was moved to strongside linebacker. Alabama coaches awarded him the Woodrow Lowe



at Bryant-Denny Stadium. Generally speaking, the Crimson Tide coach was in an upbeat mood. He had his digs for the media and sniped at a few fans who must have come from Mars to ask questions that he has addressed over and over. But it was a pleasant affair.

One piece of potential bad news concerned middle linebacker Prince Hall. The upcoming junior, who has been a first team player most of the past two years, was suspended for the spring. Saban said in early May that Hall has not done all he could do to earn his way back and warned that even if Hall gets things in order to return to the team, he will be suspended for some games.

Saban gave credit to Alabama fans for their positive energy and said it was critical that it continue into fall games. Specifically, he said that it is detrimental to a football team to have its fans boo the squad.

The Tide coach said that this year's recruiting class would not necessarily result in a large number of freshmen playing in the fall. A school may pay for summer school for incoming freshmen and Saban pointed out that the players have an opportunity to get ahead academically, get stronger in working with strength and conditioning coaches, and to enjoy the social benefit of becoming friends with their teammates before fall camp begins.

Saban did say that continuing to have excellent recruiting would be key to winning future championships.

In a press briefing prior to his Tuscaloosa Crimson Caravan address, Saban expressed pleasure with Alabama's good showing in the APR, the NCAA's academic measurement of teams. He said it was the result of Alabama having invested in the Bryant Hall Academic Center, the academic staff under Jon Dever, and the system of checks and balances that keeps tabs on academic progress of players.

Saban said it is his goal to have a football team that dominates the opposition. Last year, he said, Bama played up to the good opponents and down to the weaker opponents and that consistency must be improved. He said no games were lost because of what the opponents did, but rather because of what Alabama did not do. He said he wants Alabama to be a team that other teams hate to play, and particularly hate to play in Bryant-Denny Stadium.

He predicted that the plans to expand Bryant-Denny with a South end zone remodeling would come to fruition, perhaps beginning as early as next year.

Injury news was the big story as Saban met with reporters in a mostly off-the-record briefing just before he went on two weeks vacation. The meeting was not so much a news conference as a final chance before vacations to check on some items.

Saban had an update on some Crimson Tide football players who

Antoine Caldwell is up for several national awards



University of Alabama

have had injury issues, including confirmation that defensive back Lionel Mitchell will not be continuing in football for medical reasons. Throughout the spring Mitchell was held out of work with what was described as a "chronic" back injury, which is frequently a harbinger of "career-ending." Mitchell was an upcoming senior.

Saban said that returning starting cornerback Kareem Jackson and returning back-up linebacker Charlie Higgenbotham had been limited in the spring with "mild" sports hernia problems. Both had summer surgery and were expected to be ready to go when the team reported for fall camp.

It was a little closer call for senior wide receiver Will Oakley insofar as being 100 per cent for fall camp. Oakley suffered a metatarsal fracture in his foot while working in the weight room and had surgery this summer.

Saban also said that sophomore starting middle linebacker Rolando McClain, who suffered injuries in a motorcycle accident in the spring, is "close to 100 per cent" and is working out.

Although Saban was not ready to report on the specifics of incoming freshmen, he did say that wide receiver Melvin Ray of Tallahassee, Florida, had signed a professional baseball contract and that defensive end Brandon Lewis of Pleasant Grove has "enrolled in junior college." It was later determined that Lewis and wide receiver Devonta Bolton had enrolled at East Mississippi Junior College. Destin Hood was expected to sign a baseball contract, leaving only defensive lineman Kerry Murphy unaccounted for in the signing class as of late summer.

In his summer update, Saban said he thinks recruiting is going well and that he is pleased with those who have committed to Alabama. He said he does not put pressure on players to commit early and pointed out he doesn't judge recruiting by numbers of early commitments.

Saban said that quality big men ^ offensive and defensive linemen ^ are always a priority in recruiting and that linebackers will be a priority "until we recruit our way out of where we are." He does not, however, recruit by need under ordinary circumstances. He said there is "no place on the board where we have a zero," meaning that he intends to recruit players at every position if it makes the position and the team stronger.

He said the coaching staff worked in the summer on scouting reports of 2008 opponents. It was interesting that he said the scouting efforts begin first with the last team on the schedule (Auburn) and work back towards the first team on the schedule (Clemson on August 30 in the GeorgiaDome in Atlanta). That way, he explained, the teams played early in the season will be the ones in which preparation was most recent.



Saban said players worked on their own in the summer in seven-on-seven drills two days a week and worked on strength and conditioning, which he said went "extremely well."

Both returning players and incoming players in summer school participated in one course for no college credit, but a course Saban puts a lot of emphasis on. The University hired Pacific Institute of Seattle to provide non-credit courses on personal development.

A number of Alabama players have been mentioned in the pre-season for the right reasons.

Senior quarterback John Parker Wilson has been named to the 2008 Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award Watch List. Twenty-five of the nation's top senior college quarterbacks have been named to this list. The award takes athletic performance into consideration as well as off-the-field values of good character, citizenship, scholastic achievement and strong leadership.

Wilson also is one of 75 players nationwide on the Maxwell Award watch list. The Maxwell Award is presented to the nation's most outstanding college football player.

Wilson has been UA's starter at quarterback in each of the last two seasons. He has thrown for 5,651 yards in his career with 37 total touchdown passes. Wilson is closing in on Brodie Croyle's school records for career passing yardage (6,382) and career TD passes (41).

Matt Ryan of Boston College was last year's winner. Alabama has produced one Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award winner as Jay Barker was honored with the award in 1994.

Wilson certainly has positives as he prepares for his third year as starting quarterback at Alabama. The statistical record proves that. This year he will have his third position coach and third offensive coordinator in as many years as Jim McElwain takes over from Major Applewhite.

The Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award is presented annually to the nation's top senior collegiate quarterback by the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Educational Foundation, Inc. This prestigious award bears the name of who many refer to as the finest quarterback to ever play the game of football. Established in 1987, the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award has previously honored 20 outstanding young men.

The 2008 winner will be presented with the award on December 5 at the Tremont Grand Meeting & Banquet Facility, in downtown Baltimore, Maryland.

The Maxwell Award has been presented to the outstanding collegiate football player in America since 1937 and is named in honor of Robert W. "Tiny" Maxwell. Wilson was one of 76 college football players named to the preseason watch list.

Semifinalists for the Maxwell Award will be announced in early November and three finalists for each award will be announced November 25. The winners of the 2008 Maxwell Award will be announced as part of the ESPN Home Depot College Football Awards Show in December. The formal presentation of these awards will be made at the Maxwell Football Club.

Awards Gala hosted by Harrah's Entertainment Atlantic City on March 6, 2009.



Stuart McNair

Bama senior safety Rashad Johnson has been named to the watch list for the Bronco Nagurski Award, presented to the nation's top defensive player, and is one of 40 of the nation's top defensive backs placed on the watch list for the 2008 Jim Thorpe Award.

Johnson started all 13 games for Alabama last season and led the Crimson Tide with 94 tackles (57 solo). He was first team All-Southeastern Conference selection and led the league with six interceptions. Johnson, a 2007 team captain, also recorded 5.5 tackles for loss, eight pass break-ups, one forced fumble, one sack and two quarterback hurries.

The Nagurski Trophy is awarded to the best defensive player in college football as determined by the Football Writers Association of America and is sponsored by the Charlotte Touchdown Club. The winner of the 2008

Bronko Nagurski Trophy will be honored at a banquet at the Westin Hotel in Charlotte on Sunday, December 7.

The Thorpe Award is one of college football's most sought after and prestigious awards. It is named after one of the greatest all-around athletes, a man who excelled as a running back, passer, kicker, and defensive back. The Thorpe Award is presented annually to the top defensive back in college football.

Alabama has produced one Jim Thorpe Award winner as Antonio Langham was honored in 1993.

A committee meets the first Monday in November to narrow the Thorpe field to 10 or 12 semifinalists. The three finalists, released the Monday before Thanksgiving, are invited to the ESPN College Football Awards Show in Orlando and the winner is announced during the show. The 2008 winner will be presented with the award in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on the first Tuesday in February following the college football national signing date.

The offensive line is expected to be a strength for Alabama in 2008, primarily because of two returning stars in the offensive front. Junior left tackle Andre Smith, honored as a sophomore with the Jacobs Award as the best blocker in the SEC as determined by SEC coaches, and senior center Antoine Caldwell are receiving a lot of attention.

Caldwell is on the Rimington Watch List (top center), and Caldwell and Smith are on the Outland Trophy Watch List (top lineman).

Caldwell, who earned his degree from Alabama in less than three years and was a 2007 team captain, enters fall camp as a starter for the fourth straight season. He has been named to the Rimington Watch List in each of the last three years. The Montgomery native played the majority of his snaps last season at center, but showed his versatility with starts at offensive guard and offensive tackle.

There are 42 players on the Rimington Watch List. This year's group includes two finalists from 2007 including the winner, Arkansas, Jonathan Luigs. Caldwell and Luigs are two of five SEC players on the list, joined by Jason Bosley (Auburn), Brett Helms (LSU) and Josh McNeil (Tennessee).

Smith has already had a big "season" in that he spent a summer weekend in Phoenix, Arizona, as a member of the 52nd Annual Playboy Preseason All-America Football Team. Smith is the first Crimson Tide player to be recognized as part of the prestigious group since Roman Harper in 2005.

"I was honored," said Smith. "I got a chance to meet some guys I haven't seen since I was being recruited and also get to know some of the other players from around the country like Sen'derrick Marks, Taylor Mays, Knowshon Moreno, James Davis, Michael Crabtree, Kenny McKinley, Tyson Jackson and my roommate Michael Oher. It was a really good group of guys. The highlight was the sports contest on Friday night where we



competed in several different events like basketball, Ping Pong, long drive, home run derby, Putt-Putt and throwing a fastball. Overall, it was a great weekend and I appreciate Gil Brandt and Gary and Nancy Cole for putting it all together."

In addition to the competition there was a team photo shoot and an awards banquet. The feature was to be included in the September issue of Playboy.

The Birmingham native has started all 26 games for Alabama at left tackle over the last two seasons. Smith was a first team All-SEC selection last year.

The Alabama football team had five players named to the 2008 SEC Freshman Academic Honor Roll. Rolando McClain, Josh Chapman, Nick Fanuzzi, Jennings Hester and Alfred McCullough were all selected to the team.

To garner SEC Freshman Academic Honor Roll recognition, each student-athlete must have a cumulative GPA of 3.00, be on scholarship or a letter winner, have completed 24 semester hours of non-remedial credit and have been a member of the varsity team for the sport's entire NCAA Championship segment.

McClain finished fourth on the team in tackles during his rookie campaign with 75 total stops, five tackles for loss and two interceptions. Chapman appeared in 10 games for the Crimson Tide while Fanuzzi and McCullough saw action against Western Carolina.

All summer honors weren't limited to players. Saban was inducted into the Independence Bowl Hall of Honor at a ceremony at the East Ridge Country Club in Shreveport. The honor came six months after Saban's Crimson Tide defeated the Colorado Buffaloes 30-24 in the 2007 PetroSun Independence Bowl.

Saban shared the honor with former Miami (Ohio) University and Indiana Coach Terry Hoeppner, who was inducted posthumously, and former LSU quarterback Herb Tyler. Jane Hoeppner was on hand to accept the honor one year after her husband lost his battle with brain cancer.

Saban has made two appearances as a head coach in the Independence Bowl and has a 1-1 all-time mark. He coached Michigan State in 1995 when the Spartans fell to LSU, 45-26. Saban capped his first season at Alabama with a 30-24 victory over Colorado on December 30, 2007.

"It's certainly an honor and a privilege to be recognized by the Independence Bowl Foundation," said Saban. "We're very appreciative that we would be considered. We are also grateful for the opportunity to play in last year's Independence Bowl. We really had a great week as the entire bowl staff and the community did an outstanding job of making us feel at home and treating us like family."

The Independence Bowl Hall of Honor is comprised of players and coaches who have exemplified positive achievements both on and off the field, and who participated in the Independence Bowl. The first class of inductees was honored in 1996.

The summer also brought a change in football administration as Mike Vollmar was hired from Michigan State, where he had been director of football operations for 12 years. He has the same responsibilities at Alabama, where he replaced Todd Alles, who retired.

Saban said, "When we worked together at Michigan State, Mike did an outstanding job as an administrator and was a tremendous asset to the overall success of our football program. Mike is one of the most well respected leaders in the field of football operations nationally."

Vollmar's duties at Michigan State included internal and external operations of the football program. He also managed the football budget, team travel, scheduling, camps, and the construction of a new

\$12 million football facility. Vollmar served as the liaison between Michigan State and NFL scouts as well as high school coaches. He also served on the AFCA National Committee for Directors of Football Operations and the Board of Directors for the MSU Football Players Association, Duffy Daugherty Memorial Award and Mid-Michigan Touchdown Club.

Prior to joining MSU, Vollmar spent five years at Syracuse where the Orangemen posted a record of 42-15-1. He served as recruiting and personnel coordinator from 1991-93 and director of football and recruiting operations from 1994-96 under Paul Pasqualoni. Four players recruited during that time were named to Syracuse's All-Century team, including Donovan McNabb, Donovan Darius, Kevin Johnson and Kevin Abrams.

Vollmar spent three seasons as assistant recruiting coordinator and in athletic administration under the late Bo Schembechler and Gary Moeller at Michigan (1988-90).

Vollmar participated in track and field as a pole-vaulter at Siena Heights College in Adrian, Michigan, where he received a bachelor's degree in 1988. He earned a master's degree in sports management from the United States Sports Academy in Daphne in 1989.

There was one piece of unfortunate summer news that will affect fans of Alabama football, particularly those fans who listen to Crimson Tide broadcasts. Kenny Stabler, color commentator of Bama football for the Crimson Tide Sports Network for the past 10 years, asked for and received a one-year leave of absence. Longtime Alabama announcer Tom Roberts will replace Stabler for this season alongside play-by-play announcer Eli Gold.

Stabler was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated this summer. ■

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# 2008 SCOUT PUBLISHERS COLLEGE FOOTBALL SURVEY

## Game of the Year

1. **Florida-Georgia** (38%)
2. **Ohio State-USC** (30%)
3. **Georgia-LSU**

*Also receiving votes:* Oregon-USC, USC-Notre Dame, Texas-Oklahoma, Alabama-LSU, Ohio State-Wisconsin

### PUBLISHER COMMENTS:

Tie. **Ohio State-USC, Florida-Georgia:** Winners of those 2 games could be facing each other for the national championship.....The **Texas-Oklahoma** matchup has often determined BCS appearances at the very least, and national title appearances at times. This is a year which the latter is very realistic. Both teams will be national title contenders up to their meeting on Oct. 11, the winner a certain BCS team with a real chance to cement their standing as one of the elite teams in the country for 2008. The fact that this rivalry is built on a seething hatred for one another only adds more luster to an already meaningful game.....**Ohio State-USC:** This early matchup sets the table for the rest of the college football season. We won't know how big other games are until later in the season..... The media already has them playing in the championship and the winner will have the inside track.....Have got to go with the Buckeyes at the Trojans Sept. 13. Can't beat a Rose Bowl-esque showdown in Week 3. Actually, as meaningless as the Rose Bowl has been in non-title game years of late, we'll take back that ham-handed comparison..... **Alabama-LSU:** No national title implications this time around, but the game will be secondary for well-pre-poured home fans when their former St. Nick returns as the crimson-clad Satan.....**Georgia-Florida:** The winner is the odds-on favorite to win the national championship.....Two best teams in best conference...**Ohio State-Wisconsin:** The Buckeyes are poised to rectify their national championship mistakes the last two season, but the Badgers are no slouches themselves. Winners of 40 games over the past four seasons and 25 of their last 26 home games.....few teams find success in Madison, especially under the lights of Camp Randall.....**Georgia-LSU:** Could turn out to be the actual national championship game..... **Oregon-USC:** This will decide the Pac-10 championship and could put the winner in the driver's seat for the national championship.

## National Champion

1. **Georgia** (44%)
2. **USC** (30%)
3. **Ohio State**

*Also receiving votes:* Florida, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Notre Dame

### PUBLISHER COMMENTS:

**Georgia:** Brutal schedule makes UGA a tough pick. If USC had an experienced QB they'd be number 1. Sleeper pick Clemson's schedule sets them up to sneak into the championship game..... Georgia deserved a shot last season for the national title, and this season, the Bulldogs look poised to take all the controversy out of the BCS. Georgia looks extremely strong on both sides of the football and the schedule favors a trip to Miami.....The schedule is brutal but the talent is there.....SEC will make it two in a row.....The Dawgs have a couple of tough spots in the schedule -- Alabama after long road trip to Arizona State, and at LSU and Florida at Jacksonville back-to-back -- but should be undefeated, win the SEC title and go to the BCS championship game.....**USC:** Has more talent than about 1/2 the NFL teams.....**Ohio State:** Returns 19 starters and figures to breeze through the Big Ten. If they get past an early test at USC, the nation will be spared a third-straight BCS title game choke job.....The Buckeyes have a lot returning to the field from last year's national runner-up. But if the last two years are any indication, the Buckeyes can't compete against the SEC.....**Notre Dame:** Hey, all those NBC checks have to add up to success eventually, right? .....**West Virginia:** Who says first-year coaches can't win a national title in college football?

## Heisman Trophy

1. **Tim Tebow, QB Florida** (40%)
2. **Chase Daniel, QB Missouri** (26%)
3. **Sam Bradford, QB Oklahoma**

*Also receiving votes:* Pat White/WV, Graham Harrell/TT, Chris Wells/OSU, USC QB

### PUBLISHER COMMENTS:

**Tim Tebow:** The best player in the best league. And, it'll give the national media a dream summer '09 story asking Beano Cook the odds of a three-time Trophy winner.....Most Heisman Trophy winners are QBs, and the ones who aren't are usually RBs. In the Florida offense, Tebow is both.....**Fightin' Gators Magazine** has already printed 10,000 copies of a commemorative poster.....**Chase Daniel:** There's no one I'd drop money on, but after the success of 2007, Missouri will have a much bigger stage to highlight Daniel.....Seven of the last eight winners of the Heisman have been quarterbacks, and there is no better quarterback in the nation than Daniel. A Heisman finalist a year ago, the senior from Southlake, TX is poised to take the Tigers to the next level.....Daniel was the best player I saw last year. Next year he will be even better .....**Graham Harrell:** If Texas Tech has the year many think it could, Harrell will post insane numbers that simply can't be ignored.





## Best Rivalry

1. Ohio State-Michigan (44%)
2. Army-Navy

Also receiving votes: Auburn-Alabama, Alabama-Tennessee, Florida-Georgia, Notre Dame-Navy, Florida St.-Miami, Oklahoma-Texas, Oregon-Oregon State

### PUBLISHER COMMENTS:

**Ohio State-Michigan:** The passion between the fans doesn't compare with any other rivalry. There's plenty of hatred with other rivalries, but the atmosphere doesn't compare.....Much like the rivalry between Oklahoma and Texas the Wolverines and Buckeyes' rivalry seems built on hatred, but the fact that there has often been a national title appearance hanging in the balance makes what is a seemingly simple rivalry into one of the more significant rivalries in the country.....Don't think anything else is close. Just watch the HBO documentary that came out last year..... Just visit the message boards on Scout! They're so bitter toward one another, and now after T. Pryor, it'll get even worse... Has not always been the best game over the last decade, but with two teams that have totally despised each other since the beginning of time, the Wolverines and Buckeyes are always worth watching.....Year in and year out, it's for a BCS berth, and often for a shot at the national title. Plus, some of the most storied names in college football history -- both as players and coaches -- have been part of it.....**Army-Navy:** Nothing like it, and who on earth can pull against either one of those teams unless you went to one of the academies?.....**Tradition.** No titles at stake, just pure and simple tradition.....**Auburn-Alabama:** SEC at its finest. They hate each other 365 days a year.....Ever been? These two don't like each other. Auburn is the stepchild in-state and 'Bama hasn't been back to the glory land in nearly two decades. But when it comes to this game and what it means - no game is bigger anywhere in the nation.....Changes based on caliber of programs. USC-UCLA was big, so were Florida-Florida State and Florida State-Miami. Michigan-Ohio State seems to be at the top of the heap right now, but Alabama-Auburn has been there too..... Nastiest in-state rivalry with two schools that have sustained tradition over a long period of time. Don't even try to list Notre Dame-Southern Cal or Ohio State-Michigan, they aren't in the same area code..... Alabama-Tennessee has decided more SEC championships than any other game.....**Notre Dame-Navy:** The Midshipmen had not won a game in America's longest intersectional rivalry since 1963, until they prevailed in triple-overtime fashion last season. So why was it extended through 2016? We're thinking it must have something to do with the latest Naval technology, Touchdown Jesus and the ability to walk on water.....**West Virginia-BCS:** They should start their own bowl, I'm sure Sen. Robert Byrd can finagle the federal funding.

## Best Unknown Rivalry

*A game that is not nationally recognized as a big rivalry but means everything to the schools playing.*

1. Washington-Oregon, Kansas-Missouri
3. Texas A&M-Texas Tech

Also receiving votes: Notre Dame-Boston College, UCF-USF, Tennessee-Georgia, Washington-Washington State, NC-NC State, Tennessee-Kentucky, Ole Miss-Miss State, Lafayette-Lehigh, Louisville-West Virginia, Clemson-South Carolina, Kansas-Kansas State, San Jose State-Stanford

### PUBLISHER COMMENTS:

**Washington-Oregon:** Venom has gone out of this vicious rivalry due to the Ducks' recent dominance, but when these teams are good no one hates each other like the Dawgs and Ducks. Duck fans have thrown dog crap on the parents of Husky players.....Oregon football was put on the map by this rivalry after Kenny Wheaton picked off Damon Huard and went the distance. That highlight is 13 years old and they STILL show it at Autzen Stadium. It means that much to Oregon. Washington was the team Oregon set its sites on when building their program, and now they've surpassed the Huskies .....extremely heated rivalry with Northwest pride at stake.....**Texas A&M-Texas Tech:** This is a very unknown rivalry, but the feel is so unique. Texas A&M is built around tradition and stodginess, while Tech is full of irreverence (Mike Leach, pirate school, etc.) and the Aggies HATE them. It's really a very funny rivalry and very intense.....Most think A&M's big rivalry is with Texas, but the A&M vs. Tech game is supercharged.....**Kansas-Kansas State:** For decades this game usually decided who finished last in the conference, but success has made one of the more bitter rivalries into a meaningful contest.....**San Jose State vs. Stanford:** Stanford has trouble getting up for it, while for blue-collar San Jose State, they live to beat the "rich kid" Cardinal (whether that is a fair characterization or not).....**Vanderbilt-College Athletics:** Any football program overseen by a guy in a bow-tie deserves what it gets.....**Notre Dame-Boston College:** Because nobody at ND will admit that BC is a real rival, even though the Irish intensely hate the Eagles.....**UCF-USF:** Each of these schools is trying to make it the Big 4 in Florida; bragging rights, recruiting edges, everything is on the line in this new rivalry of two of college football's most up and coming programs.....**Missouri-Kansas:** Longest-running rivalry west of the Mississippi River. Has new meaning now that both teams are factors on the national scene.....This animosity dates back to the Civil War days.....**Washington-Washington State:** Throw out the rankings and records in this game.....**Ole Miss-Mississippi State:** While the Egg Bowl hasn't meant much outside the state, it means everything inside Mississippi.....**Lafayette-Lehigh:** In college football history, no two teams have met more often than these neighbors from southeast Pennsylvania. They have clashed 143 times, with the Leopards (Lafayette) holding a 76-62-5 edge in the original version of "The Game.".....**Tennessee-Georgia:** An undervalued rivalry. Those two have won every SEC East title since 2001 except one (Florida, 2006). Tennessee's rivalry is with Alabama and Florida; Georgia's is with Georgia Tech, Florida and Auburn. Those get a little more attention, but Vols-Dawgs is a big deal and the schools really have grown to dislike one another since 1992.....**Clemson-South Carolina:** Similar to Auburn/Alabama but South Carolina has been so bad for so many years it prevents the game from being consistently mentioned among the national contenders for such an award.

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## The National Champion should be decided by...

1. Playoff (8 teams) (26%)
2. BCS (as is) (22%)  
Playoff (4 teams)
4. Playoff (16 teams)
5. Old Bowl System (No BCS), BCS + 1

### PUBLISHER COMMENTS:

Take the champions of the six BCS conferences and add two at-large teams from the other conferences. A committee of conference commissioners and coaches would make the selections and seedings..... Winners of the four top "traditional" major bowls should play off and decide champion.....And junk overtimes. Bring back the tie, in honor of Pat Dye.....An eight-team playoff would bring college football more in line with what other sports - college and professional - do to decide a champion.....Any playoff leaves most teams ending season on losing note (this is dead issue anyway since schools don't want NCAA getting its paws on the billion or so dollars it would generate). Bowl system provided true champion most years; if two teams get to claim a championship in one year, what's the harm of that? It makes more games come into play for the national championship. And nearly two dozen teams end their seasons with some sort of championship, even if it is a so-called minor bowl title.....Pistols at 20 paces make more sense than the current format. A 16-team playoff could begin in mid-December and end in mid-January, and would add only 15 total games to the current D-IA schedule.....Simply because a playoff will never happen as there are too many commitments to bowl committees and communities behind the bowl committees, I'll take the +1 as soon as I can get it, but to not have a 16-game tournament is ridiculous.

## The Sleeper

*Pick a team that isn't in most experts' Top 10 that has a shot at making a run at the national championship.*

1. Tennessee
2. Oregon, Texas Tech, Penn State, Kansas

*Also receiving votes:* Pittsburgh, BYU, Illinois, Notre Dame, Michigan, Rutgers, Florida State, Virginia Tech, Alabama, UCLA, Arizona State, None

### PUBLISHER COMMENTS:

**Penn State:** Outstanding offensive and defensive lines, which are always vital in the Big Ten.....**Florida State:** Speed and depth make for a scary Seminole roster.....**Virginia Tech:** Don't ever turn your back on Beamerball. Consistently having one of the best defenses in the country, all the Hokies need to find is a solid quarterback who can manage the offense.....**Alabama:** Schedule sets up for possible SEC West championship, which would mean SEC title possibility. SEC champion is usually a contender for national championship.....**UCLA:** Who says first-year coaches can't win a national title in college football?.....**Arizona State:** An upset of Georgia in Week 4 could give them confidence to go into the USC game and set themselves up for a championship run.....**None:** One of the big guys is going to win it again this year.

## Best Conference

1. SEC (78%)
2. Pac Ten
3. Big 12

### PUBLISHER COMMENTS:

**SEC:** Wish they would play a tougher non-conference schedule, but the SEC is hard to beat.....Depends what you mean by "best", but top to bottom the strongest, year-in year-out...Seriously, you have to ask? At least you were wise enough not to nominate CUSA, the Conference Formerly Known as Metro...With the most talent from top to bottom, every game in the SEC is going to be physical, smash-mouth football with an outcome that rarely gets decided until the final minutes..... Two straight national titles, six in the past 16 years with four different teams winning it all (LSU, Florida, Tennessee and Alabama) makes it clear which conference is the deepest and toughest..... SEC hands down. No one is close.....Talk about your rhetorical questions..... The depth of the SEC puts it over the top. There are no easy opponents in the Southeastern Conference..... Frequently the national champion comes from the SEC, but what makes it the strongest conference is that the bottom teams are competitive..... Recent BCS title games results speak for themselves. Good to see Scout.com is trying to move subscriptions in the Northeast and West by including the Big East and Pac-10 on this ballot..... Seriously, you had to ask?..... Not even close..... Deep!.....**Pac-10:** Depth from top to bottom make the Pac-10 the best conference..... A late viewing time on the East Coast should not be a reason for overlooking the Pac-10.

## Best Looking Cheerleaders

1. USC, Oregon, Arizona State
4. Texas, Mississippi, UCLA, LSU

*Also receiving votes:* Kentucky, Alabama, Texas A&M

### PUBLISHER COMMENTS:

**Oregon:** Not sure they actually attend the school (much like the players.) It's like they've been created in a secret Nike laboratory that designs beautiful women..... Nike U wants the best in everything.....**Mississippi:** In a class by themselves. Of course so are Mississippi's though that class is Remedial Math, after all credit card balances crash their third time in the fall semester... I've been to over 40 venues across the SEC and nation, and Mississippi has the best-looking women period..... USC has gone way downhill. I like Southern Sweeties!.....**USC:** Those sweaters...say no more.....**Texas:** Can hook me anytime.....**Alabama:** No comparison.....**Texas A&M:** If you have not seen them, trust me, these duds are sexy as hell. Vanilla Ice (early 90's version) meets Mr. Clean meets Gomer Pyle to form a package men want to be and women want to be with. Gig 'em, baby!.....**LSU:** Not even close. Love those LSU girls..... The worst I ever saw at any school were pretty good-looking.

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## Best Coach

1. **Pete Carroll, USC** (26%)
2. **Mark Richt, Georgia**
3. **Jim Tressel, Ohio State**
4. **Dennis Erickson, ASU**

*Also receiving votes:* Miles/LSU, Spurrier/South Carolina, Tuberville/Auburn, Schiano/Rutgers, Petrino/Arkansas, Meyer/Florida

### PUBLISHER COMMENTS:

**Pete Carroll:** Gets it done in recruiting, his players love him, and trying to do anything against his defense is ridiculous.....His resume speaks for itself. He can coach, he can recruit and he can win national championships.....I'd love to know what he could do in a conference that has teeth (other than the AFC East). But it is difficult to argue with the way he's been able to exploit a great situation in L.A. Strong recruiter, solid with the X's and O's, and just sleazy enough to make things interesting.....

**Steve Spurrier:** Once upon a time Spurrier would have been a good choice for best coach and best recruiter.....**Dennis Erickson:** Has won everywhere he's ever been.....There's never been a rule Dennis hasn't found a way around.....**Urban Meyer:** The guy can coach. Would like to see what he can do when his team consists of all his players (and not Zook leftovers).....**Jim Tressel:** Consistency, dominance over primary rival, conference championships, national championship, continues to maintain talent level at his school even while the rest of his conference has fallen off.....**Tommy Tuberville:** Look, anyone who for a half-decade has kept the pulpwood haulers and quick-oil-change shop workers of Alabama weeping in their P.B.R. must be doing something right.

## Best Recruiter

1. **Pete Carroll, USC** (45%)
2. **Mack Brown, Texas**
3. **Urban Meyer, Florida**

*Also receiving votes:* Saban/Alabama, Stoops/Oklahoma, Erickson/Arizona State, Spurrier/South Carolina, Davis/UNC, Fulmer/Tennessee, Golden/Temple, Bowden/Clemson

### PUBLISHER COMMENTS:

**Pete Carroll:** Gets anyone he wants. How can recruits say no when they BBQ with Marcus Allen at the Playboy Mansion?.....No matter how much the Trojans lose from year to year, Carroll can be counted on to reload and rebuild in less than a couple months and be right back in the national title picture.....It's hard not to get all the best talent when the talent lives within a city bus ride away.....**Nick Saban:** LSU has won two national championships with players recruited by Nick Saban, and Alabama was declared number one in recruiting in Saban's first full season.....The LSU Band's recruiter of Golden Girls.....**Al Golden:** Plop ANY BCS conference coach in North Philly and I promise they would not hold Golden's jock on the recruiting front. No tongue-in-cheek allusion here. This guy is legit. **Bob Stoops:** His teams always have a plethora of talent.....**Very subjective:** You have to look at the results.....**Head coaches shouldn't even be in such a list** - it's all about the assistants. They are all figureheads when it comes to recruiting, nothing more.

## Best Tailgating

1. **Ole Miss, "The Grove" (26%)**
2. **Clemson**
3. **Wisconsin, Texas**

*Also receiving votes:* USC, LSU, Alabama, Army, Hawaii, Big 10, Penn State, South Carolina

### PUBLISHER COMMENTS:

**Ole Miss:** From all I've heard, nothing compares to Mississippi.....There's nothing like The Grove on Saturday. No place else is even close.....**Wisconsin:** A lot of fun, plus post-game "Fifth Quarter" was incomparable.....Combine the hardest-working band in America with the rowdiest fans in college football and you get Wisconsin. Football Saturdays shut the town down and you can hardly walk a couple feet without running into smoking grills filled with burgers and brats, fanatics covered in red from head to toe and college students with a frosty beverage to toast with.....**LSU:** Even a sober redneck Baptist boy can have fun before and after games there.....**Texas:** Those boys take their barbeque seriously.....**Hawaii:** No hot dogs and hamburgers here. Grilled shrimp and fish, fruits, etc.....**Penn State:** We'll admit the aroma out in the cow pastures may take some getting used to. But there is so much space so close to the 110,000-seat stadium that everyone has a chance to soak up the atmosphere.....**Clemson:** Not even close. Ask any team's fans who come to Death Valley.....**I'm in the press box** -- never get to go to tailgate parties

## Stadium I've never been to but would love to watch a game at...

1. **Michigan, The Big House (22%)**
2. **LSU, Tiger Stadium**
3. **Wisconsin, Texas, Tennessee**

*Also receiving votes:* Army, Boise State, Texas A&M, Washington, UCLA, Florida, Ohio State, SEC

### PUBLISHER COMMENTS:

**LSU:** Would love to take in the feel of that place when it's packed with rabid Tiger fans.....**Army's Michie Stadium:** First, I'm told it's the most marvelous setting in the sport, any sport. And second, I'd feel darn good about my team's chances.....**Notre Dame:** Has the winning tradition and the aura of the Irish never loses much luster, even after last year's awful record. Add in the golden domes and Touchdown Jesus, and it doesn't get much better.....**Texas A&M:** Best band, yell leaders, the 12th man, more traditions than any school in the country (including kissing the girl next to you every time the Aggies score).....**Washington:** Just assuming we can use the Scout.com corporate yacht to tailgate next to Husky Stadium.....Toss up between **Ohio State** and **Penn State**.....**Almost any in the SEC.**







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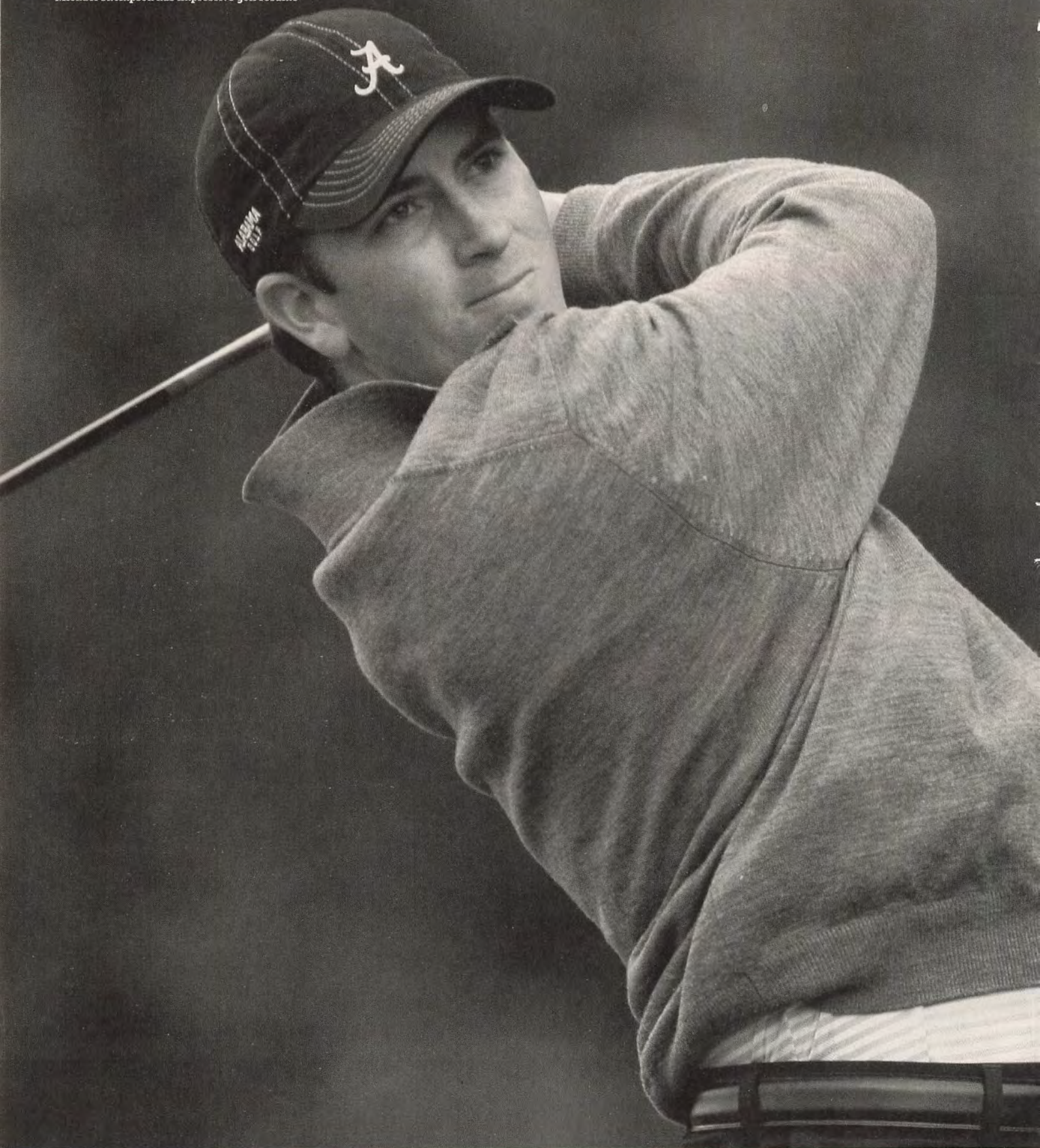
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Michael Thompson has impressive golf resume



University of Alabama



# Big Spikes To Fill

## Michael Thompson one of Bama's best ever

**A**labama has had a number of excellent golf performers over the years, including Jerry Pate, who won the United States Amateur championship between his junior and senior seasons, and current PGA player Steve Lowery, who was Southeastern Conference Player of the Year as a senior.

Michael Thompson just completed an abbreviated Crimson Tide career that puts him in the class with all-time greats. Thompson, who was scheduled to turn professional at the end of this summer, played two years for Alabama after Hurricane Katrina ended the golf program at Tulane, where the Tucson, Arizona, native had begun college play.

Prior to his senior season he was a finalist in the U.S. Amateur.

As a senior for Coach Jay Seawell he took some time away from college golf and played in the Masters, shooting a one-over-par 73 the first time he played the Augusta National course competitively. In a preliminary to the Masters, Thompson finished fourth in the par three tournament. More than that, he made a name for himself in the integrity category. Fighting to make the cut and lining up an important birdie putt late in the second round, Thompson stopped and called a penalty on himself. He—and only he—had seen his ball move.

Thompson led Alabama to a number one national ranking and the SEC championship, Bama's first in 29 years; he was SEC individual champion; and he was SEC Player of the Year, the only Tider other than Lowery to win that honor. He was first team All-America and a finalist for Ben Hogan College Player of the Year.

Before turning pro, he played in the United States Open at Torrey Pines in San Diego and finished as the low amateur. He shot 72 in the final round to finish at 292, eight strokes over par and tied for 29<sup>th</sup> overall. The tournament was won by Tiger Woods in an 18-hole playoff against Rocco Mediate.

The next week, Thompson played in a PGA event, the Travelers, and made the cut.

He also played for the United States team in the Palmer Cup, something he considered a great honor. "It's a great way to finish my amateur career," he said. "I can't ask for anything better. I've wanted to play a Palmer Cup. I want to play for a U.S. team. I narrowly missed out on Walker Cup last year, and I want to have that chance to play for my country. They've been something that has been one of my big goals this year."

Thompson and his American amateur teammates did not win that tournament in Glasgow, Scotland. They lost to the

European side, which was coached by former Alabama player Marten Olander.

"I really couldn't have asked for a better year in terms of my amateur golf and the tournaments that I've played in," said Thompson. "I played a great summer schedule, played for a great school, had a chance at the NCAA's, played in the Masters, and played well in my second Major (the U.S. Open) and second pro tournament I've ever played in. So this is very, very cool."

Thompson graduated from Alabama in May with a degree in accounting. His learning now is coming on a golf course where he hopes to make a successful professional career. When asked by media if he learned anything about himself from his experience at the U.S. Open, Thompson said, "Just the fact that I still have a lot to learn and I look forward to that. To me I don't want to be at the peak of my game right now. I know that I can get better. I think for any player—any athlete—that's always a good sign. Because the harder you work, the better you're going to get and I'm going to go out and work hard and enjoy the fact that I don't have to study for any more tests and write any more papers or anything. I'm going to enjoy golf, play golf all day, and enjoy it."

Wearing Alabama gear in his tournament play, Thompson talked about his affection for The University of Alabama and particularly Alabama golf to the media following his final round.

"I will miss Alabama," he said. "I had some great teammates, made some really good friends there that it will be hard to getting everybody back together again. I'm hopefully going to be able to go to some football games in the fall because those are incredible. But I am going to miss being in that atmosphere and playing for a school playing on a team. But at the same time I'm ready to start my life," said Thompson, who has taken up residence in Birmingham.

"I went to Tulane because they recruited me the hardest out of high school. And I loved the golf coach there, Tom Shaw. He's now at Vanderbilt, and he caddied for me at the Masters. And really enjoyed my time there. After Katrina I needed to find a new school. And I had some great schools looking at me—Oklahoma State, Florida, and Alabama, the top three. I absolutely loved Alabama and have grown to love it even more. It's been a great time playing for Jay Seawell (who was SEC Coach of the Year). And I'm looking forward to being an alumnus and, hopefully, representing Alabama out on tour." ■



# Look For Improvement

## Return of Steele is key piece of puzzle

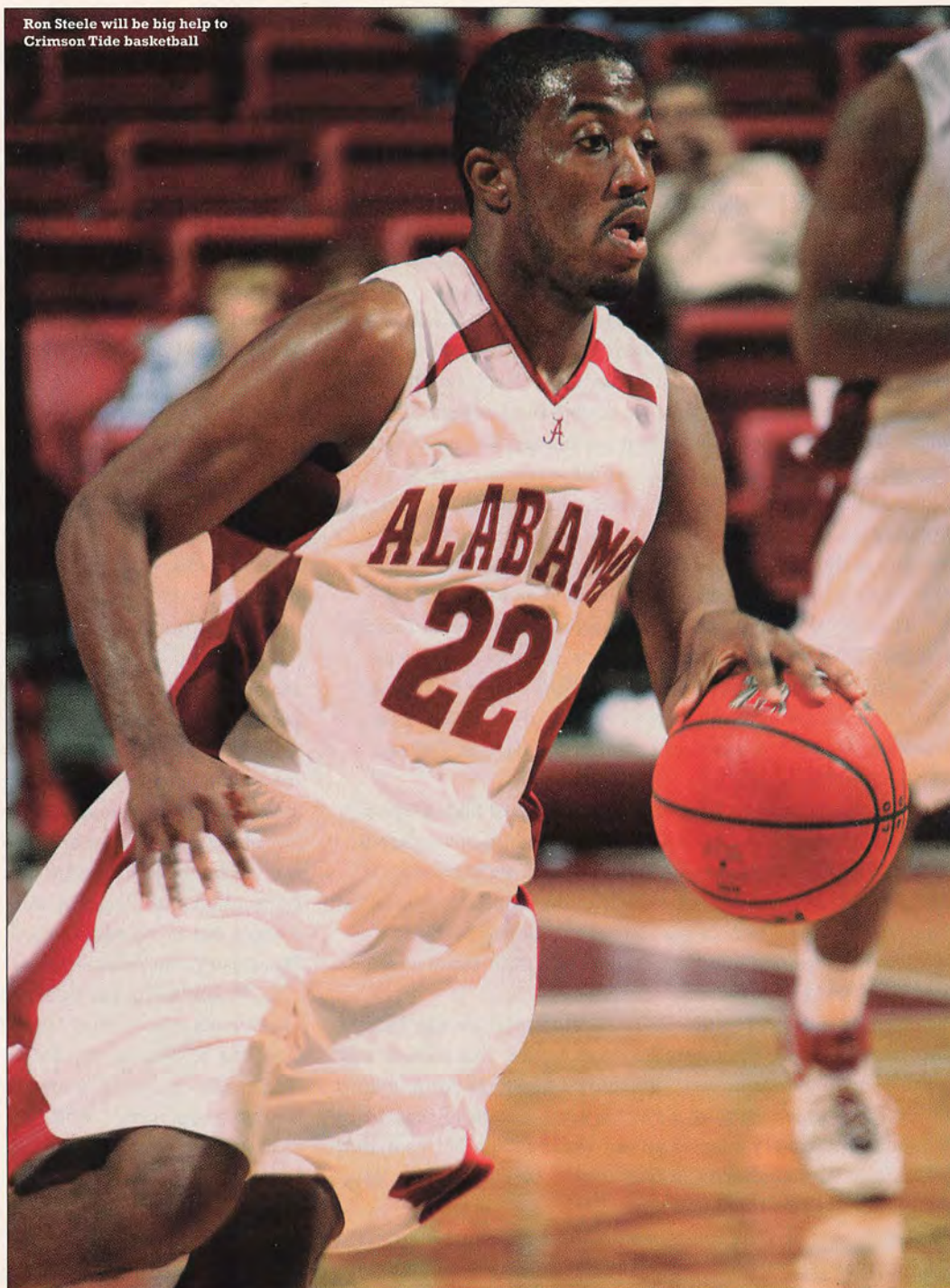
**W**hile it did not make Mark Gottfried's day when he was notified by Richard Hendrix that the three-year Alabama basketball starter was staying in the NBA draft, the 11-year coach did get some good news that week. Gottfried found out that former All-America point guard Ronald Steele had decided to take his name out of the draft and return for a final—and hopefully healthy—season at The Capstone.

That was good news as it added to what should be a deeper, more talented Crimson Tide team than the one that has taken the court the past two disappointing seasons. Gottfried, Bama fans, and Tide Athletics Director Mal Moore will look for improvement this year, and Gottfried, with the news from Steele, should have both the talent and depth to return to the NCAA Tournament next March.

Scout Media's basketball expert, Frank Burlison, said, "With the return of Steele (assuming he is healthy), the Tide will have one of the best point guards in college basketball, a man who not only possesses fine physical skills, but is one of the better leaders on the college level.

"Losing Hendrix hurts, considerably. He would have been a consistent "20/10" (points and rebounds) guy. He would have been a leading contender for SEC Player of the Year honors and could have helped the Tide be a

Ron Steele will be big help to Crimson Tide basketball



University of Alabama



Sweet 16 level team.

"I do see Alabama making a solid run at 20-plus wins and the chance to be one of the three or four best teams in the SEC."

There is a school of thought that both players made the correct decision. Steele can help himself a great deal in the eyes of pro teams with a solid, injury-free senior season at point guard. When healthy, he was outstanding.

Hendrix is not going to get taller or faster at Alabama and there is no reason to believe he would improve his shot facing the basket (where he'll have to play at the pro level) or his atrocious free throw shooting.

Gottfried said, "I'm 100 per cent sure Ron Steele is going to be recovered, but until he goes out and shows it that will be a question mark."

Steele's return is huge for Gottfried and his team for a number of reasons. First, he will bring a cool head. He will also bring senior leadership. He will provide experience, as he's been through the always-tough Southeastern Conference three times. Steele will bring ball-handling ability, which was noticeably absent during last year's 17-16 season, which included a 5-11 mark against the SEC. That Tide team averaged 15.6 assists per game versus 13 turnovers, far from the two-to-one ratio needed for a successful season at any level of basketball.

Steele can fix that. When last healthy as a sophomore, the 6-foot-1 Birmingham native averaged 14 points and 4.3 assists per game. He had but 2.7 turnovers per contest. His ratio as a true freshman was an astounding 2.46 per game. Steele can handle the rock and dish it, as well. He will make all those around him better, and that—not scoring—is job one for a point guard.

Steele took a redshirt season in 2007-08, opting to recover from knee surgery. He had both knees operated on to repair small cartilage defects in April 2007 and then a second procedure on his left knee on August 23, 2007. He was cleared to return to practice and re-joined his team in December 2007 as perhaps college basketball's most talented scout team player.

"I'm really excited about coming back my senior year to play," said Steele. "After praying about this and talking with my family, my coaches and people within the NBA, I feel like I made the right decision for me. I enjoyed the process. It's been a valuable learning experience for me and it was a lot of fun. Now I'm concentrating on Alabama and I'm looking forward to coming back to Alabama and hopefully having a great senior season."

Who might be joining Steele in the backcourt when PA announcer Tony Giles calls out the Tide starting lineup? Here's a semi-educated guess: newcomer Anthony Brock. Brock is only 5-foot-9, but he is at best a Devin Downey (of South Carolina) type guard, and at worst an Antoine Pettway (former Bama crowd favorite) type. Gottfried will take either.

"Anthony is a very good point guard," said Gottfried. "He has shot the ball extremely well, handles the ball well and can run a team. I like the fact that he is a tough competitor and winning is important to him. He finds a way to help his team win."

While playing in 34 games this past season at Itawamba, Brock averaged 18.5 points, 4.7 assists, 3.5 rebounds and 3.4 steals and averaged nearly three three-point shots made per game.

Will Gottfried put Brock in the backcourt with Steele, essentially putting two point guards on the floor at once? There are upsides. First, there will be fewer turnovers. Also, there will be better shooting on the floor, forcing opponents to play less zone defense.

Certainly, Gottfried could (and may) opt to start sophomore

Senario Hillman opposite Steele. If he does, Steele will on most nights be the only outside shooting threat when games start. Hillman is a dynamic defender, perhaps Bama's best since Anthony Murray in the 1970's, but his outside game is suspect, to say the least. Last year, Hillman got hot late in the year to "raise" his mark behind the three-point line to a 6-for-41 mark. It seems Hillman may best be served as a sixth man, bringing energy, defense and leaping ability off the pine.

If Brock and Steele play together, they can help offset the loss of Bama's only true outside threat last year, Mykal Riley. Should Gottfried decide to start Hillman, Brock will likely be off the bench first, allowing Steele to shift from the point to the wing. Look for that when opponents do go zone.

Senior Brandon Hollinger, a Gottfried and fan favorite, will again be a part of the guard rotation, but could be the fourth man if Brock plays up to expectations. It may not happen, but a wise move for junior Mikhail Torrance might be to redshirt, thus giving him a chance for much more playing time in the 2009-2010 campaign. Such decisions rarely occur when injuries are not involved, but in this case it may be a good thing to consider.

One youngster who could factor in to that and other backcourt decisions is true freshman Andrew Steele, Ron's younger brother. The two have never played on the same team due to their age difference, but the younger Steele would love nothing more than to get some court time with the guy he always played against in the back yard. The younger Steele averaged 17 points, 10 boards and 5 assists at John Carroll Catholic last year.

Greg Cage, a junior walk-on who can play both big guard and small forward, is a quality practice player and his role will not likely change next year.

Some other good news Gottfried got (albeit, earlier in the process) was the wise decision of senior Alonzo Gee to withdraw from the draft. Gee, on some nights, can be a scoring threat against the zone. Last season, the 6-6 slasher hit on 31 per cent of his three-point attempts. It's usually feast or famine from the outside for Gee. He can dunk with the best of them, but is not always consistent with his jumper. Perhaps that will change in his final season. Gottfried and his staff hope for just that. Gee was the team's third leading scorer last year, averaging 14.5 points. He will start at the small forward position again, but is likely to be pushed harder than many may think.

That push will come from true freshman Tony Mitchell, who like Hillman, comes from South Georgia with great leaping skills. Mitchell's outside game is a work in progress. He will remind Tide fans of a freshman Gee, but will likely give the senior Gee a run for playing time. Mitchell is 6-foot-6 and a leaper who averaged 19 points per game at Swainsboro High School.

Gee and Hillman are exciting players, but both struggled to hit three-pointers and the decision by the NCAA to move the three-point line back a foot to 20 feet, nine inches, will have an impact on Alabama as well as other college teams.

Manning the high post could be sophomore Justin Knox, a 6-9, 236-pounder who has reportedly played well in off-season pick-up games, even holding his own against NBA player and ex-Tider Jermareo Davidson.

"I told Justin, 'Your life changed today,' on the day Richard told us he would not be returning," Gottfried said, and it probably did. Knox is a natural fit for the high post position in Gottfried's UCLA-style offense. While Knox will be pushed by returning starter Demetrius Jemison for the position, Knox's height and improved game could well help him hold off that challenge,



though the 6-6 Jemison is a year older.

Last year, Jemison averaged 5.6 points and 5.3 boards. Knox did not get the minutes his elder did, so his stats were less, but Knox could well be a starter this year, with Jemison providing relief.

Losing Hendrix in round two of the NBA draft to the Golden State Warriors was a big blow. The 6-7 man-mountain averaged a double-double last year (17.8 points, 10.1 rebounds). His replacement probably will not match those numbers, but with a healthy Steele he won't have to. Most likely to step in for Hendrix is true freshman JaMychal Green, a 6-foot-8 leaper from Montgomery. Green's game resembles that of the collegiate version of former Tide star Antonio McDyess, who currently plays for the Detroit Pistons. Green is a two-time Class 1A player of the year in Alabama. He rarely plays outside of 10 feet on offense, and is more comfortable in the low post position Hendrix vacated. He averaged 23 points, 15.7 rebounds, and 7 blocks at St. Jude High last year. Green and Andrew Steele have been teammates on the same AAU team, the Alabama Challenge.

This summer Green was one of 12 players selected for the USA Under-18 national team. Green and teammates played in the 2008 FIBA Americas U18 Championship in Formosa, Argentina.

Also pushing for playing time in the front court will be Yamene Coleman, a 6-9 junior who has battled various ailments in his first three years. Coleman is a staunch defender and rebounder, who can block shots. He is not, and will not likely be, a scorer for Alabama. He will be available for needed minutes (and fouls) at the low post position, probably backing up Green, who is much more athletic than Coleman.

Jemison is more effective in the high post, but if needed can swing down low to help out on nights when Green or Coleman (or both) have foul trouble.

Bottom Line: Moore and the Tide's basketball fan base have reason to expect much improvement in the coming campaign. Despite a trip to the talent-laden Maui Invitational (featuring the likes of North Carolina and Indiana), the 2008-2009 Alabama basketball team should have the talent and depth to win 10 league games and 20-plus regular season games.

Should it accomplish at least the latter, a return to March Madness should be imminent. And expected.

#### PETTWAY RETURNS AS ASSISTANT COACH

Antoine Pettway, the Alabama point guard who orchestrated one of the most memorable plays in Alabama basketball history, has been hired as a assistant coach on Mark Gottfried's Crimson Tide basketball staff.

Recognized nationally by college basketball fans for the shiny red shoes he wore on the court, the Alberta native put his name in Alabama basketball history when he made a last second layup against Florida to lift Alabama to a win and claim the 2002 Southeastern Conference regular season championship. Pettway, who started his career as a walkon with an academic scholarship in 2000 and earned an athletic scholarship because of his play by that freshman season's end, was a senior in 2004, a year he helped lead Alabama to its greatest run in the NCAA tournament, the Elite Eight. He was also a key player on Alabama first number one ranked basketball team when Gottfried's 2002-03 team held the nation's top spot. Alabama advanced to the NCAA tournament all four years he played.

"I have a great belief in Antoine," said Gottfried of Pettway who spent a year working in the basketball office in 2005-06 as a graduate student. "As a player, he was a great leader. He epitomized

Mark Gottfried has Steele back, but must replace inside and outside scoring



University of Alabama

the definition of toughness and he played with such heart. I've watched him closely as a player and then later as a member of my staff in our office, and I think he will bring a lot to our staff."

Pettway, 25, is leaving his job as assistant coach at Jacksonville State where he has coached since June of 2006. He is replacing Kobie Baker. Baker will move to a new position within the Alabama Athletics Department. A current situation within his immediate family necessitates he remain close to home, something not possible in coaching with recruiting, travel and time demands.

"I am excited to come back to the program that I love," said Pettway who graduated from Alabama with in 2004. "Alabama basketball has a great tradition, and I'm proud I was able to help add to that tradition as a player and now I will have the opportunity to help add to many more great moments on the basketball court for Alabama as a coach. Coach Gottfried was always able to coach and bring out the best in me and my game, and I'm looking forward to working with him and Alabama's coaching staff. And I'm really looking forward to working with the players on the Alabama team. One of the things I've always been proud of is the class of players Alabama has on its teams, year after year. They are talented players who work hard and play well and they conduct themselves with class off the court" ■



# Bound For Beijing

## Tide athletes take aim at Olympics success

**E**very four years, the best of the best the world over gather in one place for glory that rises above school colors. A place where national colors burn bright and the central colors that rise even above those of nations come in just three shades - gold, silver and bronze. This is one of those tri-colored summers as the world turns its eyes to Beijing, China for the 2008 Olympiad.

And while school colors are set aside, it doesn't mean that Alabama's crimson and white won't be well represented on the other side of the world this summer.

Leading the charge for the Tide will be Alabama softball legend Kelly Kretschman. The outfielder will be making her third trip to the Olympics as part of the United States juggernaut. An alternate in 2000, she took home gold as part of Team USA in 2004 and will be a vital member of the 2008 squad. In addition to her stints on the Olympic squad, she helped the U.S. to gold at the 2007 Pan Am Games and the 2007 World Cup. A four-time All-America (1998-2001) and NCAA home run champion, Kretschman was a Honda Award Nominee in 2001. Under Coach Patrick Murphy she set every career offensive record at Alabama.

Former Alabama NCAA champion Miguel Pate soared to a spot on his first Olympic team by leaping 26 feet, 11.75 inches in the long jump to take third place at the USA track and field trials. The 2005 U.S. Outdoor Champion and 2002 and 2003 U.S. Indoor Champ, Pate, whose Crimson Tide tenure has long been over, still claims Tuscaloosa as home and former UA assistant Rod Tiffin as his coach.

Pate will be joined in Beijing by his former Bama head coach, Harvey Glance. The Alabama men's mentor is an assistant coach on the United States team, marking his fourth Olympic berth after earning spots on the 1976, 1980 and 1984 USA squads. Glance won a gold medal in 1976 as part of the 4x100 relay. Glance was the U.S. head coach at the 1999 Pan American Games, where the USA led in total medals won with 295. He also was an assistant sprints/hurdles coach for Team USA at the 2003 World Championships and the assistant sprints/hurdles coach at the 2006 World Junior Championships.

Sandy Fowler, head track and field coach for the Crimson Tide women and assistant coach for Team USA's 2000 Olympic squad, will be sending four women with crimson and white backgrounds to Beijing. The group includes Trish Bartholomew, the NCAA runner-up in the 400 meters both indoors and outdoors last season. Competing for her native Grenada, she'll likely run the 400 meters looking to NCAA silver into a shot at Olympic glory.

Former Tide stars Tahesia Harrigan (British Virgin Islands), Miruna Mataoanu (Romania) and Kou Luogon (Liberia) will all compete under the five-ringed banner of the Olympics.

Harrigan, who took bronze at the 2008 World Indoor Championships in the 60-meter dash, is likely to run the 100 and 200 meters. Mataoanu, an NCAA runner-up in the high jump, will compete in that event in Beijing while Luogon will run the 400-meter hurdles.



Former Alabama star Miguel Pate is on the U.S. Olympic team

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And while she didn't earn one of the three coveted spots on the United States team, Alabama gymnastics legend turned pole vaulter Andreé Pickens, deserves mention. Pickens was seeded eighth going into the United States Trials. She came up short of the Olympics, though her rise in the pole-vaulting world has been deemed swift and impressive.

Well represented on land, the Tide's aquatic brigade under Coach Eric McIlquham will also have a chance to make waves at what is already being touted as "The Michael Phelps Show." (Phelps is going for eight gold medals at these Olympics.)

Two former NCAA Champions and a defending Olympic Bronze Medalist will be among those with UA ties making the trip to Beijing. Anne Poleska (Germany), competing in her third Olympics, took the 200-meter breaststroke Bronze in 2004 and will



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look to move up the precious metal/medal chain this time around.

Vlad Polyakov (Kazakhstan) who won two NCAA 200 breaststroke titles and a World Championship after a pair of fifth place finishes in the 100 and 200-meter breaststrokes at the 2004 Olympics, will be reaching for a medal in Beijing. He'll be joined in the 200-meter breaststroke by Hunor Maté (Hungary), who combined with Polyakov to give the Tide one of the most potent one-two breaststroke punches in the nation their senior year in 2007.

Two-time NCAA 200 butterfly champ and current Alabama assistant coach Stefan Gherghel (Romania) will compete in his third Olympiad, this time in the 100- and 200-meter butterfly and the 400 medley relay.

After competing in his home pool during his first Olympic experience, Apostolis Tsagkarakis (Greece), will branch out, swimming the 'blink and you've missed it' 50-meter freestyle as well as seeing possible relay action. Arlene Semeco (Venezuela) will also be swimming the sprints in Beijing, her second Olympic outing as well, skimming the water in the 50- and 100-meter freestyles. Semeco won double gold in the Pan American Games last summer, taking top honors in the 50- and 100-meter freestyles.

Rising junior Agustina de Giovanni (Argentina) will swim the 200-meter breaststroke once again. Making her second Olympics trip, De Giovanni, who led the Tide in six different events as a sophomore, ranks among the Tide's all-time top-10 in eight, including a school record in the 400 individual medley. She stands second on the Tide's 200 breaststroke list, just behind Poleska.

And while each generation of Olympians looks to make its mark, the legends of the sport and the Games are invariably and rightly honored in the build-up to the Games. At the USA Olympic Swimming Trials, Don Gambril, former Alabama head coach and head coach of the 1984 U.S. Olympic team and four-time Olympic assistant coach, served as an honorary starter during one of the sessions.

Gambril, who earned plenty of airtime during the NBC airing of the trials due to his seats in front Michael Phelps' mother, wasn't the only one with a Tide connection having a good time at the Omaha-based trials. Kate Shannon Gray, a Tuscaloosa native and daughter of former Tide quarterback Alan Gray, capped her rookie collegiate season by dropping a second off her career-best time and finishing in the top top-third of the 100-plus 200-meter IM field. Chris Perry, a senior this coming season, came away with a career-best mark of his own in the 100-meter backstroke as rising junior Hannah Brinks did in the 100-meter butterfly. Incoming freshmen Suzanne Schwee and Joe Ziegler also swam at the U.S. Trials, setting them up to roll in strong to their rookie Tide seasons.

Making waves is a swimmers business, but for diver Aaron Fleshner, a rising junior under Coach Pat Greenwell, the key is slicing the water clean. He did plenty of that at his first U.S. Diving Trials. One of only 15 invited to compete off the three-meter board, Fleshner finished seventh, making quite an impression on the field. Going hard right down to the end, he hit his last dive of the meet for 8s and 9s. In 2008, he finished third at the NCAA Championships off the three-meter board, and if his Olympic Trials performance is any indication at all he should be a heavy favorite to win it all as a junior.

A rich tradition of Olympic Glory already in the books, Alabama's finest will strive to add to that legacy in nearly every day of what documentarian Bud Greenspan once dubbed "16 Days of Glory." And their hope will be to tinge that Olympic Glory with Crimson Pride. ■



# Playing In Season

## Baseball players have off-season in summer

College baseball has tinkered with the schedule in an attempt to make the summer game a little more seasonable, but it's a fact of academic life that much of baseball is played when it's still on the chilly side. The good news for college baseball players is their off-season work is in perfect baseball weather.

While the Alabama baseball season ended the first of June at the NCAA Conway (South Carolina) Regional, many of the Crimson Tide players scattered about North America this summer playing various collegiate summer leagues.

Alabama had 13 current players participating in seven different collegiate summer leagues.

"I think this summer will be a good experience for all of our players," Alabama Coach Jim Wells said as the off-season competition started. "They all will be playing against good competition each and every day, which will only make them better players, plus they will be getting top-notch instruction from some very good coaches. This is a great experience for all of them."

Junior catcher Mike Sharp, sophomore third baseman Jake Smith, sophomore pitcher/outfielder Del Howell and freshman right-hander Jimmy Nelson all played for the McKinney (Texas) Marshalls in the Texas Collegiate League for Jim Gatewood, a former Tide assistant coach. The TCL regular season runs from June 10-August 3, with the playoffs beginning on August 5.

Junior center fielder Alex Kubal, freshman pitcher Austin Evans and redshirt freshman middle infielder Jon Kelton spent their summer with the Thunder Bay (Ontario) Border Cats in the Northwoods League. The league began play on May 29 and continues through August 11. The playoffs run from August 12-17.

Alabama's freshman duo of Josh Rutledge and Ross Wilson were in the prestigious Cape Cod League. Rutledge, a 2008 Freshman All-America, played for the Yarmouth-Dennis Red Sox. Wilson, who was named to the 2008 Conway Regional All-Tournament Team, spent the summer with the Bourne Braves.

The Cape Cod League opened play on June 13 and concludes on August 7. The playoffs run from August 9-14.

First-Team All-SEC outfielder Brandon May spent his second summer with the Newport (Rhode Island) Gulls in the New England Collegiate Baseball League. May was named to the 2007 NECBL All-Star team following his freshman season last summer. The NECBL opened play on June 6 and the playoffs began August 1.

Junior catcher Kyle Moore played in Alaska after playing summer ball in Hawai'i last year. Moore played for the Anchorage Bucs in the Alaska Baseball League. The league begins

play on June 9 and concluded August 1. The playoffs were to begin on August 2 with the winner advancing to play in the NBC World Series in Wichita, Kansas in mid August.

Redshirt freshman Tyler White pitched for the Wilmington (North Carolina) Sharks in the Coastal Plain League.

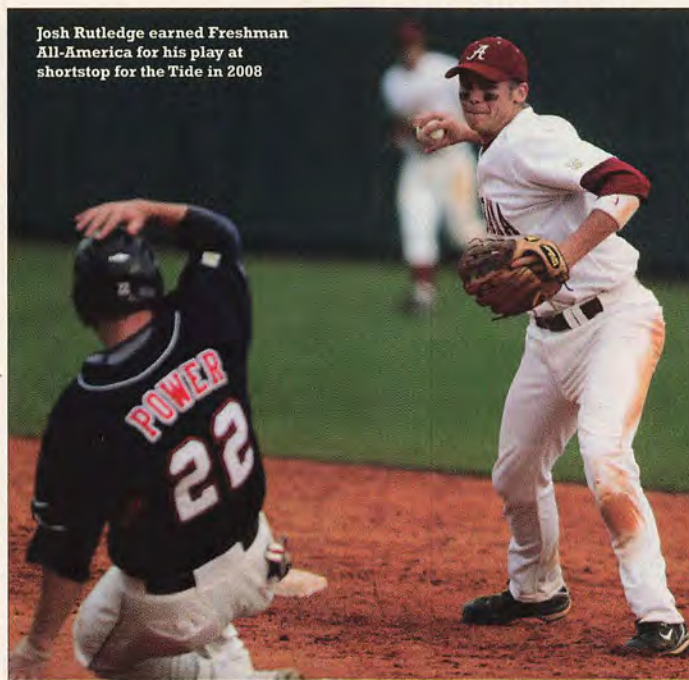
Freshman Connor Hoehn played for the Youse's (Maryland) Orioles in the Cal Ripken Sr., Collegiate Baseball League. The Orioles are the defending league champions and have won five straight AABAA World Championships. The Ripken League opened play June 6 and continues with the playoffs through August.

Catching up on Bama baseball news:

Josh Rutledge started the summer with good news. He was named to the 2008 Louisville Slugger Freshman All-America team by Collegiate Baseball newspaper.

Rutledge started 61 games for Alabama and led the

Josh Rutledge earned Freshman All-America for his play at shortstop for the Tide in 2008



University of Alabama



Crimson Tide with a .369 (99 for 268) average with 11 extra base hits, 32 RBI and a team-best 62 runs scored. He is the second freshman in school history to lead the team in hitting, joining David Magadan, who hit a UA rookie record .389 in 1981. The 99 hits are the most in a season by an Alabama freshman and the 10th most in school history.

"This is a well-deserved honor for Josh Rutledge," Coach Wells said. "Josh is an excellent player and he had a great year for us this season. He is a really a good hitter."

Rutledge led all SEC hitters with 91 hits during the regular season and paced the league with 56 hits in 30 conference games. A 2008 Freshman All-SEC selection, Rutledge was also named to the Southwest Diamond Classic All-Tournament team, after hitting .693 (9 for 13) with back-to-back four-hit games against Nevada and Dallas Baptist in Frisco, Texas.

He was named SEC Freshman of the Week, after hitting .727 (8 for 11) with four runs scored and two RBI in series win over Auburn. He had four hits and two RBI in the Tide's 17-7 series-clinching win over the Tigers.

The Cullman native posted a 28-game hitting streak, the third longest in school history, from March 26-May 10. The 28-game hitting streak is the longest by an Alabama freshman, surpassing Magadan's 27-game hitting streak in 1981. During the streak, Rutledge hit .430 (52 for 121) with 57 runs scored, six extra base hits and 19 RBI.

He also posted a school record 23-game SEC hitting streak from March 21 through May 10, where he batted .459 (45 for 98) with 22 runs scored, five extra base hits and 12 RBI.

The Major League Draft is tough on college baseball. The pros can get players who have completed their junior seasons, and they can also pluck players who have signed with colleges out of high school or junior college.

As expected, the MLB draft took two Alabama players who would have been upcoming seniors, catcher Alex Avila and pitcher Miers Quigley.

Avila was taken in the fifth round by the Detroit Tigers. Avila hit .343 and led the team with 17 home runs and 62 RBI in 61 games in 2008. In his 188-game career, Avila batted .305 (203 for 656) with 36 home runs and 165 RBI. Avila joins Jeremy Brown (1999-2002) and Brent Boyd (1999-2002) as the only three players in school history with 200 career hits and 100 career walks.

Senior right-hander Josh Copeland and junior left-hander Miers Quigley were taken on the second day of the 2008 MLB Draft. Quigley was taken in the 36th round (1,086th pick) by the Minnesota Twins. Copeland was selected in the 47th round (1,420th pick) by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

Copeland was 3-2 with four saves and a 3.12 ERA in a team-leading 28 appearances. He was 6-5 with eight saves and a 3.11 ERA in 80 career appearances. He logged 111 1/3 innings in three starts and 77 relief appearances. Copeland's 77 relief appearances are the most in school history, surpassing the previous record of 75 relief appearances

held by Greg Hibbard in 1985-86. Copeland is also the third pitcher in school history to log 80 career appearances, behind Lance Cormier (87) and Brent Carter (81).

Quigley posted a 5-4 record and 5.58 ERA in 16 games. He made 12 starts and fired a complete-game shutout at Jacksonville State on March 26. In his three-year career, Quigley is 10-15 with a 5.03 ERA in 39 games and 32 starts. He has logged 193 1.3 innings and recorded 161 strikeouts.

Alabama also had a pair of signees taken. Right-hand pitcher Craig Kimbrel (Wallace State Community College) was taken in the third round (96th pick) by the Atlanta Braves. Jade Todd, a 6-3 left-hander from Shades Valley High School, was taken in the seventh round (223rd) by the Detroit Tigers.

Alabama freshman second baseman Ross Wilson and junior catcher/designated hitter Alex Avila were named to the NCAA All-Regional Team at Conway.

Wilson batted .500 (7 for 14) in three tournament games, with three home runs, five RBI and four runs scored. He posted a .533 on-base percentage and 1.143 slugging mark for the tournament. He tied an Alabama tournament record with two home runs in a 13-10 loss to Coastal Carolina on Saturday, May 31.

Avila hit .417 (5 for 12) in the three games at the Conway Regional with one home run, one RBI and one run scored. He hit safely in all three games and had two hits against East Carolina on May 30 and Coastal Carolina on May 31.

Three Alabama players—Alex Avila, Austin Hyatt and Kent Matthes—were named to the 2008 Southeastern Conference All-Tournament Team.

Hyatt earned All-Tournament honors after tossing a four-hitter against SEC Champion and seventh-ranked Georgia in an elimination game on May 22. Against the Bulldogs, Hyatt allowed two runs and four hits with six strikeouts and one walk. He took a one-hitter into the eighth inning and at one point in the game retired 20 straight Georgia batters.

Matthes hit .400 (6 for 15) in four games with three runs scored, one double and four RBI. He went 3 for 5 with two runs scored and two RBI in the Tide's 13-4 win over number 19 Kentucky on May 23.

Avila hit .375 (6 for 16) in four games behind the plate with two runs scored, one double and four RBI. He was 3 got 6 and drove in two runs in the Tide's 13-4 win over Kentucky. He added two more hits and one RBI against LSU on May 25.

The SEC's annual post-season awards for regular season play did have Alabama represented. As expected, the lion's share of honors went to Georgia, winner of the SEC regular season championship.

Alabama had two All-SEC first team performers in outfielder Brandon May and designated hitter Alex Avila. No Crimson Tide player made the second team. Shortstop Josh Rutledge was Bama's lone representative on the SEC All-Freshman team. Third baseman Jake Smith was on the defensive honor squad. ■



# Best Yet

## Women have most successful season in Tide history

**A**labama softball has an advantage over Crimson Tide football. The fire marshal puts a limit on the number who can cram into Bryant-Denny Stadium for a Bama football game. But when Alabama softball sells out of seats, they just collect more money and put the fans on a nearby hillside.

One of the big surprises of The University of Alabama sports scene is that softball has become a tough ticket. In consecutive years the stadium has been sold out before the first pitch was thrown.

Alabama has come to be among the nation's leaders in attendance. On January 28, the UA ticket office sold its 1,595th and final season ticket for the 2008 season, giving the Tide an unprecedented season-long sellout in Tuscaloosa. It is unknown whether this feat has been equaled at any other college softball program in the nation.

But that is only part of the story. Alabama averaged a school record 1,934 per game and had sold 59,909 tickets. Bama had 15 crowds of 2,000 or more with a new school record of 2,461 coming in a doubleheader vs. LSU on April 5.

The reason for the popularity is that Coach Patrick Murphy's Crimson Tide has been successful. And the 2008 squad was the most successful in school history.

Alabama finished the season ranked fourth in the nation by both polls, USA Softball/ESPN.com and USA Today/NFCA.

Alabama finished its 12<sup>th</sup> year of competition with a 58-8 mark and a school-record .879 winning percentage. The Tide went 25-3 in the Southeastern Conference and captured the SEC Western Division title. Bama, which earned its 10<sup>th</sup> NCAA invitation in its 12 years of competition, swept through the NCAA Tuscaloosa Regional and Super Regional.

Alabama reached the semifinal round of the Women's College World Series. It marked the highest finish in school history, surpassing four seventh-place finishes in 2000, 2003, 2005 and 2006.

The Tide posted a 2-2 record in Oklahoma City at the WCWS with wins over two-time defending national champion Arizona and Louisiana-Lafayette. Arizona State defeated Texas A&M with a two-game sweep in the WCWS championship series to finish a unanimous number one. The Aggies were second with Florida ranked third and UCLA fifth. Alabama's elimination from the WCWS came at the hands of the eventual national champion, Arizona State taking a pair of 3-1 wins over Bama in Oklahoma City.

Although Bama didn't win the national championship, the Crimson Tide was named the Easton School of the Year and had four players earn first team All-America honors.

Alabama was one of five Easton Schools of the Year on various levels of collegiate softball. UA had a school-record four players—Brittany Rogers, Kelley Montalvo, Charlotte Morgan and Kelsi Dunne—receive first-team Easton All-America honors.

Rogers, now a three-time Easton All-America, garnered first-team honors for the second straight year after being selected to the second team as a freshman in 2006. The Dacula, Georgia, native led the country in stolen bases (60) and runs scored (79) while

hitting .452 from her leadoff spot with a .502 on-base percentage. Rogers finished the year with a 19-game hitting streak.

Morgan, the Moreno Valley, California, native was also a finalist for the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year with a .417 batting average, 19 doubles, 19 home runs and 79 RBI at the plate. As a pitcher she had an 18-2 record with 1.27 earned run average. Morgan's 79 RBI set the SEC single-season record.

Montalvo, a Miami native, finished .373 with 10 home runs, 15 doubles and 54 RBI while posting a .511 on-base percentage and a .663 slugging mark. She turned in an amazing season at the hot corner with a .983 fielding percentage, making just three errors in 66 games.

Dunne, a freshman from Port Orange, Florida, compiled a 26-6 record in her rookie campaign with a 1.44 ERA and 275 strikeouts. Her 275 strikeouts rank as the fifth-highest total in school history while her 26 wins are an Alabama freshman record.

Bama had the same four players earn All-America honors from Louisville Slugger and the National Fast Pitch Coaches Association. The Crimson Tide led the nation with three first-team selections as Rogers, Morgan and Montalvo were honored. Dunne was a third-team honoree. It marked the most first-team All-America selections in school history and tied the 2001 team with four total All-America picks. Rogers becomes a three-time All-America, while Morgan, Montalvo and Dunne all received the honor for the first time.

Morgan was named to the WCWS All-Tournament team after hitting .308 with a home run, double and four RBI. She also went 1-0 in the circle with a complete-game win over Louisiana-Lafayette.

A school-record seven Alabama players earned All-SEC recognition for their play in 2008. Pitcher Kelsi Dunne was named the SEC Freshman of the Year as well as a first-team all-conference pick. Charlotte Morgan, Brittany Rogers and Kelley Montalvo also joined Dunne on the first team. Senior outfielders Jordan Praytor and Dani Woods along with junior catcher Ashley Holcombe were second-team. Praytor was also selected as the SEC's Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

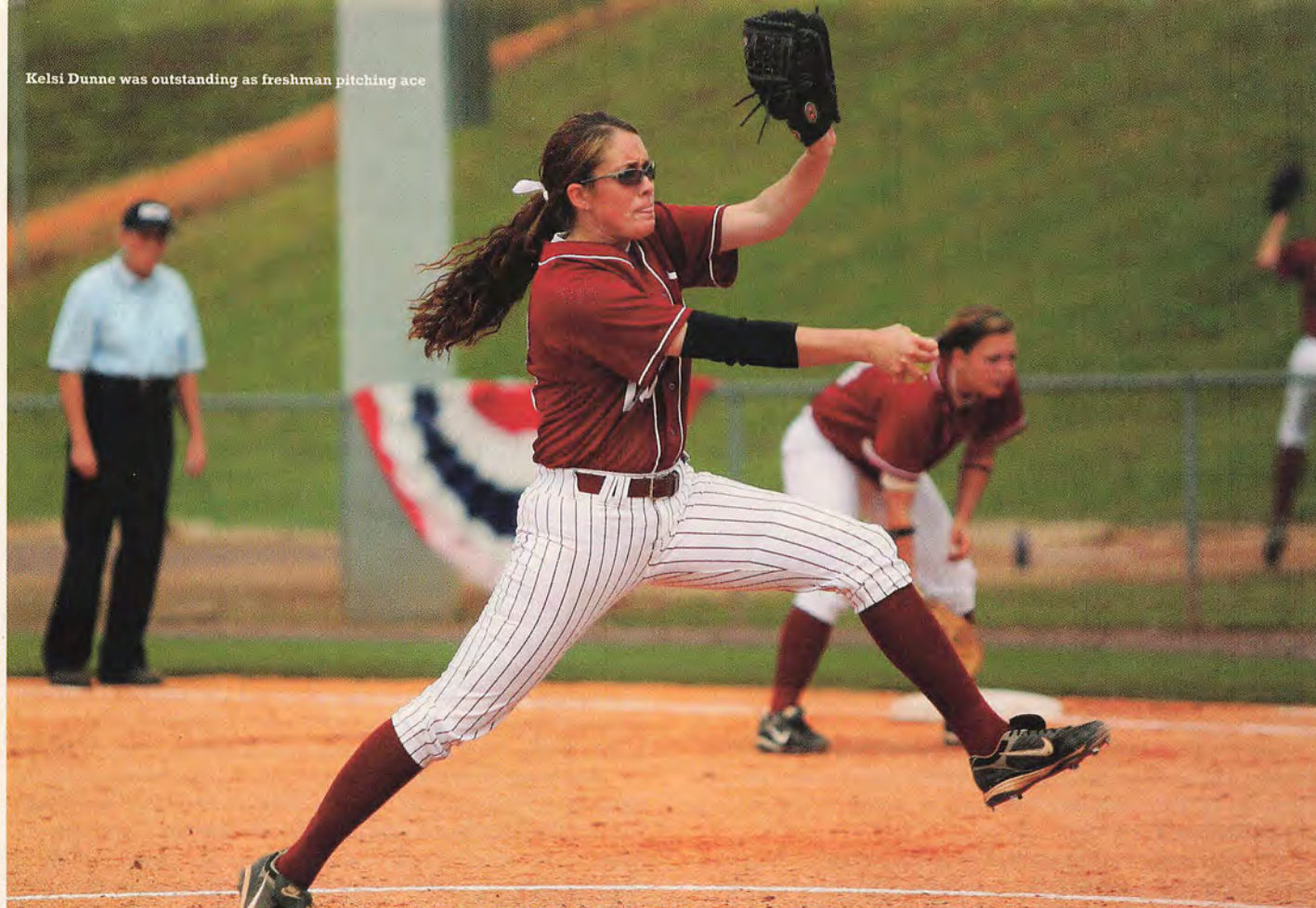
Holcombe didn't make All-America, but she did get second-team NFCA All-South Region honors after an outstanding season behind the dish. She recorded a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage in SEC play and batted .297 overall with seven home runs and 25 RBI. There were just 20 stolen base attempts on the strong-armed backstop. She threw out six. She also had a school record seven pickoffs. Missouri, which ranked second nationally in stolen bases entering the super regional, didn't even attempt a steal on Holcombe.

Players weren't the only ones getting honors. The Bama coaching staff was named the National Fastpitch Coaches Association South Region Coaching Staff of the Year. Murphy, who has completed his 10<sup>th</sup> year at the Tide helm, is assisted by Alyson Habetz and Vann Stuedeman. Habetz, the Tide's associate head coach, has been on the Alabama staff since Murphy took over prior to the 1999 season. Stuedeman joined the Tide staff for the 2001 season.

It is the fourth time Murphy's staff has been named the

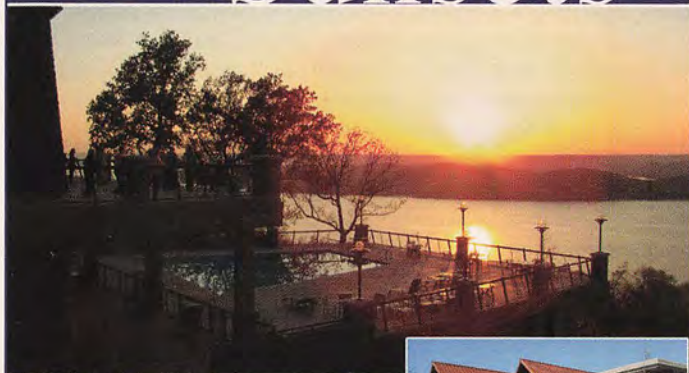


Kelsi Dunne was outstanding as freshman pitching ace



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NFCA South Region Coaching Staff of the Year. The 2000 staff was the first to be selected and the current staff was also honored in 2003 and 2006.

The Alabama offense produced amazing numbers in 2008. UA set school records for doubles (118), on-base percentage (.432), stolen base percentage (.876), walks 266 and hit by pitches 63. The Tide also finished second in home runs (77), runs scored (445), slugging percentage (.544) and RBI (395). Alabama ranked in the top 10 nationally in eight categories, including stolen bases per game (2nd, 2.47), scoring (2nd, 6.74), winning percentage (3rd, .879), slugging percentage (3rd, .544), batting average (5th, .324), doubles (5th, 1.79), fielding percentage (7th, .977) and home runs (10th, 1.17). In the circle, the Crimson Tide posted a 1.56 ERA

The Tide has a 36-21 record in the NCAA Tournament (including regionals, super regionals and the WCWS). Alabama has won six NCAA Regional titles (2000, '03, '05, '06, '07 & '08) and three NCAA Super Regional championships (2005, '06 & '08). UA made its fifth appearance in the Women's College World Series this season, including its third trip in the past four years.

It may be that Alabama prepares well for the NCAA Tournament with its regular season schedule. The Crimson Tide played an impressive 19 teams in 2008 that qualified for the NCAA Tournament (including the NCAA Regional, Super Regional and WCWS). Alabama played 40 games against those NCAA Tournament teams and posted a 32-8 (.800) record. The 40 games against NCAA teams represented 60.6 percent of Alabama's 2008 schedule. The Crimson Tide also faced seven of the 16 number one regional seeds with a 11-6 mark in those games. UA also played four super regional teams with a 8-5 record.



# Prep Prospects

## A look at top skill players in Alabama

**I**t was big news in 1967 when the top two high school football prospects in the state of Alabama came from the same city, Birmingham. Tailback Johnny Musso from Banks selected Alabama, while quarterback Pat Sullivan from John Carroll went to Auburn. In 1974, the top two prospects being from Birmingham again made big recruiting news. Alabama got both as tailback Tony Nathan of Woodlawn and quarterback Jeff Rutledge from Banks would become important parts of a Crimson Tide national championship team.

This year the top two prospects in the state of Alabama are not only from the same city, they are teammates at the same high school. And as in those earlier examples, both are skill position players. Defensive back Dre Kirkpatrick and wide receiver Kendall Kelly are at Gadsden City, and they are at the top of Alabama Coach Nick Saban's "Want List."

The state of Alabama is known for producing elite skilled prospects with the class of 2009 no exception. Two Scout Media five-star prospects hail from the same high school in northeast Alabama, and the Tide is hoping to land the signatures of both to go along with their four-star quarterback commitment from Mobile.

Several in-state prospects have shot up the charts based on their performance in the spring and summer in camps and combines, specifically the Under Armour/Scout.com combine series.

One reason the Crimson Tide finished first in the nation in recruiting last year is because Bama landed almost all of the top prospects from within the state. Early Scout projections on this year's recruiting wars predict the Crimson Tide will again reap most of the top prospects in Alabama.



Scout



Scout

It has long been noted that Alabama, even though a small population state, benefits from a great football heritage and excellent high school coaches and fan support. As a result, Saban and his staff make getting the top players from within Alabama high priority.

Our first look of the season is of some of the hottest skill position players (offensive and defensive backs and wide receivers) who are upcoming high school seniors in Alabama.

### QUARTERBACKS

AJ McCarron 6-4, 188, Mobile St. Paul's, a Scout four-star, is ranked as the 11<sup>th</sup> best quarterback in the nation and the number 113 overall prospect. He has already announced for Alabama.

McCarron had a monster junior season completing 145 of 232 pass attempts for 2,540 yards and 26 touchdowns with only three interceptions. He helped guide the Saints to a 14-1 record and captured the Class 5A state championship. He was named Alabama Sports Writers Association (ASWA) All-State, ASWA Super 12 (all classes), and Orlando-Sentinel All-Southern. He is ranked the fifth best prospect in the state by



the Tuscaloosa News.

McCarron drew heavy praise at the Under Armour/Scout combine in Mobile in January. He was the best quarterback, a group which included Auburn commitment Raymond Cotton and Mississippi State commitments Tyler Russell and Chris Garrett.

McCarron received scholarship offers from across the country before narrowing favorites to Alabama, Georgia, LSU, Miami and Oklahoma. He committed to the Tide in the spring and is a solid commitment. He has contacted other prospects, recruiting for his 2009 class.

"I know there is a great opportunity at Alabama to go in and compete for a national championship," McCarron said. "Alabama signed the number one recruiting class in the country (in 2008), and I am good friends with a lot of those guys. I want to be able to be a part of getting Alabama back to the top."

Clint Moseley 6-4, 200, 4.7, Leroy, a Scout three-star, is having a banner high school career with one year remaining on the gridiron and baseball diamond. Moseley helped lead the Bears to Class 2A football and baseball championships. In 2007 he passed for 3,259 yards with 26 touchdowns and rushed for 745 yards with 11 touchdowns.

The ASWA selected Moseley as the Class 2A Back of the Year and he was named All-State, the MVP of the Super Six, and Southwest Alabama's Offensive Player of the Year by the South Alabamian and Clarke County Democrat. He is ranked the 29th best prospect in the state by the Tuscaloosa News.

Moseley had collected scholarship offers from Arkansas State, South Alabama and UAB. He has received interest from Alabama, Auburn and Memphis. Moseley lists favorites as Alabama, Memphis, South Alabama, UAB and UCF.

"I like Alabama because I grew up a fan and have been up there so much," Moseley said.

Robert Cooper, 6-4, 205, Daphne, is trying to get noticed on the recruiting scene, but will need a strong start to the 2008 season to earn major offers. He was back-up to West Virginia signee Coley White in 2007, but will have the full reins as a senior. He passed for three touchdowns, but he spent full time as a safety during his junior season where he recorded three interceptions.

South Alabama has been impressed and extended a written offer. He has received interest from Alabama, Auburn, Southern Miss, Troy and UAB. Cooper does not list any



Scout

favorites, but attended the Alabama camp in June and has high interest in the Tide.

"I think I had a really good camp," said Cooper. "I think I put myself on the radar. I spent time with Coach (Jim) McElwain. He saw my footwork and watched me throw. I felt like I had a good camp."

Josh Hollingsworth, 6-0, 175, Hamilton, emerged as a prospect in the spring and jumped on an early offer from Mississippi State. Hollingsworth passed for 1,600 yards and 22 touchdowns as a junior. He was named all-area by the Times Daily as a punter as he averaged 45 yards per punt. The Bulldogs commitment is nephew of former Alabama quarterback Gary Hollingsworth. An offer from Alabama is unlikely, but Troy, UAB, Tennessee and Stanford are interested in another look if he decides to re-open his recruitment. That does not seem likely.

Other quarterbacks to keep an eye on include Brent Osborne from Valley of Fairfax and Tyler Caldwell from Cullman.

## RUNNING BACKS

Tim Simon, 6-2, 200, 4.6, a Scout three-star, earned much attention as a junior by leading Cordova to the Class 3A state championship. He rushed for 1,566 yards with 33 touchdowns. Simon was honored with the Birmingham News 2007 Super All-Metro Team, ASWA Super 12, and 3A all-state and is ranked the 18<sup>th</sup> best player in the state by the Tuscaloosa News.

Simon holds offers from across the South including Alabama, Auburn, Clemson, Kentucky and Mississippi State. Simon could play running back or linebacker on the next level. He expects to make a decision at the end of summer.

"I keep in touch with Alabama a lot," Simon said. "I went there for an unofficial visit, and I really like it."

Orwin Smith, 6-0, 195, 4.5, Scout three-star from Central of Phenix City, was a hot commodity in the spring after rushing for 1,278 yards and 12 touchdowns as a junior. He is number 27 by the Tuscaloosa News. Smith's offers include Alabama, Auburn, Clemson, Georgia Tech, UAB and Vanderbilt.

"When I went to visit I loved the campus," Smith said of Alabama. "Of course Nick Saban is a great coach. The weight room is the largest in the country. They are second in graduation rate in the SEC."

Derek Smith, 6-1, 200, 4.5, from Hillcrest High in Evergreen, turned in fine performances at Alabama, Auburn and Southern Miss summer camps. He is starting to emerge as big name on the recruiting scene. He received his first offer from Southern Miss. Smith rushed for 788 yards on 88 attempts as a junior. He added 44 tackles and four interceptions on defense. He is ranked 42nd by the



Tuscaloosa News.

"I like Alabama because they really work hard," said Smith. "They are determined to get what they want. They won't let you sit down and loaf. They are going to push you to the limit to achieve more."

Shawn Southward, 5-10, 185, 4.4, Florence, has collected offers from Arkansas State, Georgia Southern, North Alabama and Troy. Southward is receiving interest from Alabama, Auburn, Tennessee and Southern Miss. He rushed for over 1,700 yards and 28 touchdowns as a junior. He was named ASWA honorable mention running back for Class 6A, and rated 50<sup>th</sup> by the Tuscaloosa News.

Justin McCreary, 5-10, 250, 4.8, Theodore, is a big bruising running back who will likely play fullback on the next level. He received his first offer from South Alabama, and is receiving interest from Alabama, Auburn, Southern Miss, Georgia Tech, Troy and UAB. McCreary rushed for more than 800 yards and 11 touchdowns as a junior. He made 92 tackles. He is rated 44<sup>th</sup> by the Tuscaloosa News.

Other in-state running backs to watch include Chris Thornton and Kelvin James of Gadsden City, Zach Stacy of Bibb County, Dae Spence of Opelika, Kendall Houston and Jalston Fowler of Vigor, Ron Gary of North Jackson, and Andre Shields of Hoover.

## WIDE RECEIVERS

Kendall Kelly, 6-3, 210, 4.5, Gadsden City, a Scout five-star, is rated the number two player in the state by the Tuscaloosa News. The elite prospect made 34 receptions for 595 yards, rushed 17 times for 189 yards, and scored nine touchdowns as a junior. He was named ASWA honorable mention 6A. He has received offers from across the country including Alabama, Auburn, Clemson, Florida, Florida State, LSU and Tennessee. Kelly does not list any favorites and expects to wait until National Signing Day to make a decision.

"Their new offense stands out to me," Kelly said of Alabama. "It's really looking good right now. It's a plus to see them throwing the ball a lot more. I liked getting a chance to see them work."



Tim Simon

Scout



Orwin Smith

Scout

Brandon Heavens, 5-10, 170, 4.4, Bessemer Jess Lanier, is a Scout three-star and ranked the 15<sup>th</sup> best player by the Tuscaloosa News. Last year at Bessemer Academy he earned Alabama Independent Schools Back of the Year after accounting for 3,119 yards (730 rushing, 1,236 receiving, 585 kickoff return, 568 punt return) and 22 touchdowns. He is committed to Auburn and does not plan to take any visits.

Mujahid Assad, 6-1, 185, 4.5, Mobile Williamson, Scout three-star, had a productive junior season. He made 33 catches for 517 yards and 10 touchdowns. He has received offers from Arkansas, Mississippi State, Marshall, Ole Miss, South Alabama and UAB. He lists Mississippi State and Arkansas as favorites. He is rated 25<sup>th</sup> by the Tuscaloosa News.

Mardrecas Hood, 6-3, 185, 4.5, Reform Pickens County, a Scout three-star, is a standout on the football field and basketball court. Hood will have to make a tough decision as to which sport he will play on the next level. Alabama is the only school to offer the talented athlete, but Auburn, Florida and Mississippi State are showing interest.

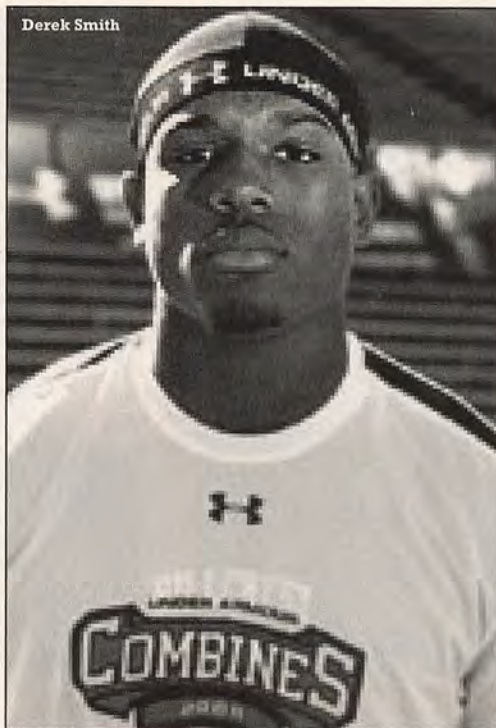
"Their recruiting class really stuck out to me," Hood said of Alabama. "The past few classes have been really good." As a junior he was named ASWA honorable mention all-state and he is rated 26<sup>th</sup> by the Tuscaloosa News. Hood had 16 receptions for 505 yards and six touchdowns. He ran the ball nine times for 15 yards and a touchdown. He had 32 tackles on defense, seven assists and four interceptions. He missed four games due to an ankle injury.

Arthur Williams, 6-2, 170, 4.53, Smiths Glenwood School, a Scout three-star, had 40 receptions for 620 yards and 10 touchdowns as a junior. He added two interceptions, one



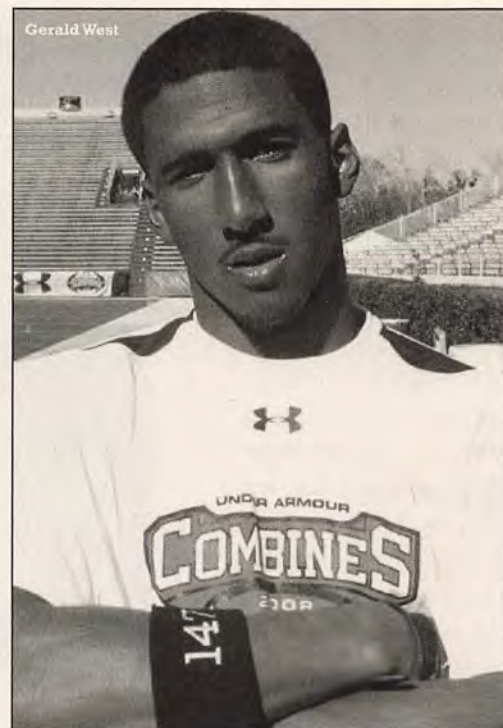
returned for a touchdown. Georgia Tech, Kentucky, Vanderbilt and Middle Tennessee have offered. Williams lists Georgia as a favorite. He is rated 28th by the Tuscaloosa News.

Other receivers to watch are LaVoyd James of Mobile Williamson (an Auburn commitment), Carlos McCants of LeFlore, T.J. Hoyt of Lincoln, Izauea Lanier of Gordo, Quamain Simmons of Clay County, Corey Waldon of Tuscaloosa Central, Quaylon Moncrief of Prattville, Limebric Windham of Alma Bryant, Jarvis Carter of McAdory and Caleb Lewis of Tuscaloosa County.



Derek Smith

Scout



Gerald West

Scout

## DEFENSIVE BACKS

Dre Kirkpatrick, 6-2, 180, 4.5, Gadsden City, Scout five-star cornerback, holds over 40 scholarship offers including Alabama, Auburn, Clemson, Florida, Florida State, LSU, Michigan, Tennessee, Texas and USC. One of Kirkpatrick's best friends, Jerrell Harris, is a freshman at Alabama. He expects to make a decision on National Signing Day.

Kirkpatrick made 58 tackles, six interceptions and was named AWSA Class 6A All-State, and he is rated the Number One player in the state by the Tuscaloosa News.

"I like Alabama a lot," said Kirkpatrick. "I like how the team is starting to grow. It's good having Jerrell down there, but I am not going to make my decision based on just that."

Gerald West, 5-10, 165, 4.45, Scout three-star cornerback, made headlines in the summer when he left Davidson High School. West is expected to transfer to Faith Academy, also in Mobile, but could move to Mississippi to live with his father. He had collected scholarship offers from Alabama, Auburn, Clemson, Florida, LSU and Tennessee. As expected, he announced for Alabama. West made 36 tackles, three interceptions, five pass break ups and one fumble recovery as a junior. He missed three games due to a shoulder injury. He is rated number 13 by the Tuscaloosa News.

"Alabama is in the top right now of all the schools since they treated me like family, and I felt really comfortable up there," said West before his commitment.

Jonathan Edwards, 5-9, 185, 4.6, Tuscaloosa Central,

Scout three-star, is one of the most physical cornerbacks in the state. As a junior, Edwards made 64 tackles, intercepted 15 passes with one touchdown, one caused fumble and one fumble recovery and accounted for 24 pass break-ups. He was awarded all-state honors by the ASWA. He is number 30 by the Tuscaloosa News.

Edwards has received scholarship offers from South Alabama and Southern Miss. Alabama, Auburn, Florida State and Nebraska have expressed interest.

"I like the way the fans stick with Alabama," said Edwards. "They always have a lot of fans whatever they do."

Alvin Hines, 6-0, 195, 4.5, Pelham, Scout three-star safety, is a standout football and baseball player. He made 80 tackles, one interception, four pass breakups and three forced fumbles as a junior. Auburn was the first school to offer a scholarship followed by Kentucky, Stanford and UCF. Alabama, Georgia Tech and Vanderbilt have expressed interest. Hines visited Tuscaloosa in the spring. He is rated 24th by the Tuscaloosa News.

"I really like it down there," said Hines about Alabama. "I like the campus, the academics, and their facilities. I love the coaches. Overall I just love the campus. It's a big positive."

Other defensive backs to watch include Pat Miller and Brian Jackson of Hoover, Alex Buford of Thomasville, Courtney Freeman of Birmingham Parker, Norman Craig of Isabella in Maplesville, Cornelius Richards of Tuscaloosa County, and Keiron Wilson of Mobile Davidson.



# HOT LIST

## 2009 Alabama Football Prospects

Andrew Bone of 'BAMA Magazine is also Scout Media assistant regional manager for coverage of recruiting. He and others in the Scout Media recruiting staff have made the determination that the following players and Alabama have some interest in one another.

| Name, Pos.             | Hgt. | Wgt. | Time | Hometown (High School)         | Name, Pos.             | Hgt. | Wgt. | Time | Hometown (High School)           |
|------------------------|------|------|------|--------------------------------|------------------------|------|------|------|----------------------------------|
| Kenyatta Abernathy, S  | 6-1  | 201  | 4.6  | Tuscumbia (Deshler)            | Austin Long, OT        | 6-5  | 270  | N/A  | Memphis (Briarcrest Ch.)         |
| Jonathan Atchison, SLB | 6-3  | 215  | 4.6  | Atlanta (Douglass)             | *A.J. McCarron, QB     | 6-4  | 180  | 4.8  | Mobile (St. Paul's)              |
| Kenny Bell, WR         | 6-1  | 170  | 4.4  | Rayville, La.                  | Eric McDaniel, DT      | 6-1  | 297  | 5.0  | Calhoun, Ga.                     |
| Chris Bonds, DE        | 6-4  | 275  | 4.8  | Columbia, S.C. (Richland NE)   | *Darius McKeller, OT   | 6-6  | 295  | N/A  | Jonesboro, Ga.                   |
| Jheranie Boyd, WR      | 6-3  | 185  | 4.45 | Gastonia, N.C. (Ashbrook)      | *Mike Marrow, FB       | 6-1  | 235  | 4.7  | New Albany, Ohio                 |
| Josh Boyd, DT          | 6-3  | 275  | 4.85 | Philadelphia, Miss.t           | *William Ming, DE      | 6-4  | 230  | 4.7  | Athens                           |
| Alex Buford, S         | 5-11 | 175  | 4.5  | Thomasville                    | Barkevious Mingo, LB   | 6-4  | 200  | 4.6  | West Monroe, La.                 |
| Chad Bumphis, WR       | 5-10 | 180  | 4.4  | Tupelo, Miss.                  | Sam Montgomery, DE     | 6-4  | 220  | N/A  | Greenwood, S.C.                  |
| Rex Burkhead, S        | 5-11 | 196  | 4.6  | Plano, Texas                   | Brandon Moore, OT      | 6-5  | 310  | N/A  | Montgomery (Carver)              |
| Montrell Conner, RB    | 6-1  | 210  | 4.5  | Monroe, La. (Ouachita Parish)  | Clint Moseley, QB      | 6-4  | 196  | 4.7  | Leroy                            |
| Chris Davenport, DE    | 6-5  | 320  | 5.2  | Mansfield, La.                 | Kevin Norwood, WR      | 6-3  | 180  | 4.5  | Biloxi, Miss. (D'Iberville)      |
| Desmond Dennis, RB     | 5-11 | 185  | 4.5  | Atlanta (Carver)               | *Anthony Orr, DE       | 6-4  | 261  | 4.8  | Harvest (Sparkman)               |
| *Quinton Dial, DT      | 6-05 | 310  | 5.1  | Pinson (Clay-Chalkville)       | Taikwon Paige, CB      | 6-0  | 170  | 4.4  | Milledgeville, Ga. (Ga Military) |
| Craig Drummond, DE     | 6-5  | 260  | N/A  | Chicago (Morgan Park)          | Tana Patrick, LB       | 6-4  | 220  | 4.6  | Stevenson (North Jackson)        |
| Jonathan Edwards, CB   | 5-9  | 185  | 4.5  | Tuscaloosa (Central)           | Jamal Patterson, WR    | 6-2  | 1889 | 4.56 | McDonough, Ga. (Henry Co.)       |
| Johnnie Farms, OG      | 6-2  | 280  | N/A  | Perry, Ga.                     | Rueben Randle, WR      | 6-3  | 195  | 4.5  | Bastrop, La.                     |
| Chris Faulk, OT        | 6-5  | 276  | 5.4  | Slidell, La. (Northshore)      | *Trent Richardson, RB  | 5-11 | 210  | 4.5  | Pensacola (Escambia)             |
| Quan Fletcher, LB      | 6-1  | 240  | 4.7  | Miami (Dr. Krop)               | Gene Robinson, S       | 5-10 | 180  | 4.5  | Memphis (Whitehaven)             |
| *D.J. Fluker, DE       | 6-6  | 327  | 4.9  | Foley                          | Montez Robinson, DE    | 6-4  | 230  | 4.43 | Avon, Ind.                       |
| Stephon Gilmore, S     | 6-0  | 180  | 4.5  | Rock Hill, S.C. (South Pointe) | Terry Shankle, CB      | 6-0  | 180  | 4.5  | Norwood, N.C. (So. Stanley)      |
| Eric Gordon, CB        | 5-11 | 186  | 4.4  | Nashville (Hillsboro)          | Tim Simon, RB          | 6-2  | 200  | 4.5  | Cordova                          |
| A.J. Graham, QB        | 6-3  | 195  | 4.6  | Tallahassee (Godby)            | Sam Simpson, C         | 6-5  | 260  | N/A  | Lexington, Ky. (Henry Clay)      |
| Alvin Hines, S         | 6-0  | 195  | 4.5  | Pelham                         | Anthony Steen, OG      | 6-4  | 295  | N/A  | Clarksdale, Miss. (Lee Acad.)    |
| Mardrecas Hood, WR     | 6-3  | 180  | 4.5  | Reform (Pickens Co.)           | Donavan Tate, S        | 6-3  | 195  | 4.5  | Cartersville, Ga.                |
| Gabriel Hunter, RB     | 5-11 | 190  | 4.5  | Memphis (Kingsbury)            | Frankie Telfort, LB    | 5-11 | 197  | 4.55 | Miami (Gulliver Prep)            |
| Will Jackson, OG       | 6-4  | 280  | 5.1  | Knoxville, Tenn. (Farragut)    | *Chance Warmack, OG    | 6-4  | 230  | N/A  | Atlanta (Westlake)               |
| Demario Jeffrey, WLB   | 6-3  | 211  | 4.6  | Columbia, S.C.                 | Quinten Washington, OG | 6-4  | 322  | N/A  | St. Stephen, S.C. (Timberland)   |
| Nico Johnson, LB       | 6-2  | 230  | 4.6  | Andalusia                      | *Gerald West, CB       | 5-10 | 170  | 4.45 | Mobile (Davidson)                |
| Jarvis Jones, LB       | 6-3  | 205  | 4.55 | Columbus, Ga. (Carver)         | De'Antwan Williams, RB | 5-7  | 207  | 4.5  | Woodbridge, Va.                  |
| Kendall Kelly, WR      | 6-4  | 205  | 4.5  | Gadsden (Gadsden City)         | *Kellen Williams, OT   | 6-5  | 288  | N/A  | Snellville, Ga. (Brookwood)      |
| Prince Kent, S         | 6-2  | 193  | 4.6  | Norcross, Ga.                  | Ronnie Wingo, RB       | 6-1  | 215  | 4.6  | St. Louis, Mo. (University)      |
| Dre Kirkpatrick, CB    | 6-3  | 180  | 4.5  | Gadsden (Gadsden City)         | *Rod Woodson, S        | 5-11 | 200  | 4.5  | Olive Branch, Miss.              |
| Drew Little, QB        | 6-5  | 240  | N/A  | McDonough, Ga. (Henry Co.)     | * Committed to Alabama |      |      |      |                                  |



# Late Additions

## Signing new players on-going in all sports

**T**he attention of college recruiting is centered on the first Wednesday in February, Signing Day for new football recruits. But it isn't the only time that athletes are added. In fact, a college athletics department has many more scholarshiped athletes than the 85 who play football, and those non-football signees are added throughout the year.

When it appeared that Alabama basketball star Ronald Steele might go into the NBA draft, foregoing his final year of eligibility for the Crimson Tide, Bama Coach Mark Gottfried went to the junior college ranks for insurance. And it was a very good "policy."

Anthony Brock, a 5-9 point guard who has played the last two seasons at Itawamba Community College in Mississippi, signed with the Tide in late April.

"Anthony is a very good point guard," said Gottfried. "He has shot the ball extremely well, handles the ball well and can run a team. I like the fact that he is a tough competitor and winning is important to him. He finds a way to help his team win."

Brock is a native of Little Rock, Arkansas, where he graduated from McClellan High School.

Playing in 34 games last season at Itawamba, Brock averaged 18.5 points, 4.7 assists, 3.5 rebounds and 3.4 steals and averaged nearly three 3-point shots made per game. As a freshman in 2006-07 he played in 33 games and averaged 14.1 points. Led by Brock, Itawamba finished 30-4 in 2008 and 27-6 in 2007. Itawamba was ranked fifth in the nation when it went into the 2008 NJCAA tournament.

Brock was named National Junior College Athletic Association All-America second team in 2008. His 36 points in a game against Copiah-Lincoln led to Itawamba winning its first state championship in 40 years in the Mississippi Association of Community Junior Colleges Tournament. Brock went 10 of 11 at the free throw line in that win. He was the Region 23 Player of the Year and was selected to compete in the Mississippi all-star game.

Brock was a 47.3 per cent (86-182) three-point shooter this past season, shot 48 per cent (196-408) from the field and 76.7 per cent (151-197) at the free throw line. He scored 1,073 points and averaged 4.5 assists in 67 career games at Itawamba. He started in every game he played in junior college.

He joins a class of three previously signed high school stars: 6-9 post player JaMychal Green of Montgomery, 6-3 guard Andrew Steele of Birmingham, and 6-7 small forward Tony Mitchell of Swainsboro, Georgia.

Good college coaches most often are those who recruit good players, and the job of recruiting never ends. Many college prospects are committing earlier and earlier. One of those early commitments is Cully Payne.

In fact, Payne has already committed twice. He made an early commitment to DePaul, but then decided to check out some other possibilities. After making a visit to Tuscaloosa, the 6-0, 160-pound guard announced that he would sign with Alabama in the early signing period in November.

"They had a great college atmosphere and a great coaching staff," Payne said. "It's a real good fit for me to come in as a freshman and play. Their personnel is a real good fit for me. Coach Gottfried is a great guy. Their facilities are unbelievable."

Payne visited Alabama in the spring, then took another trip to the campus for Gottfried's elite camp in the summer. During the second trip Payne picked up a scholarship offer and committed to Alabama shortly after the visit.

"I think I'm definitely going to have a way to contribute right away," Payne said. "They are going to have a guard who will be a senior when I'm there, but that's it. I just think it'll be a real good fit for me to come in and contribute right away. I think it's going to be a real good fit."

Payne averaged nearly 17 points per game in his junior season at Shaumburg (Illinois) High School.

Payne's commitment was followed soon after by the decommitment of a player who had previously announced for Alabama. Reger Dowell, a 6-1 guard from Duncanville, Texas, had been an early pledge to Bama, but shortly after the announcement by Payne, Dowell said he was re-opening his recruitment.

Dowell may yet end up in crimson and white. A spokesman for his family said there are no leaders for Dowell, but if there was it would be Bama. Other schools after Dowell include Marquette, Texas, Texas A&M, Baylor, Nebraska, SMU and Tulane.

Alabama Men's Track and Field Coach Harvey Glance has signed a standout high jumper who will begin competing for Bama in the spring of 2009. Michael Edwards, a native of England, was at Poinciana High School in Kissimmee, Florida.

"When we went to evaluate him we saw him jump the third highest mark in the nation at the time," Glance said. "He is tall and really athletic and will be a benefit to our program right away."

While at Poinciana High, Edwards has broke school, conference and district records with a leap of 7-0.25. The mark was the sixth best jump in the nation at the prep level. Edwards won the state and district title in 2006 and was the regional runner-up.

The Manchester-born Edwards was to compete for the Great Britain team this summer at the World Youth Championships in Poland. The 6-6 Edwards also competed at the 2007 AAU Junior Olympics.

"The high jump will be a very competitive event for us for not just next year but years to come," Glance said. "He is an instant addition to our program and his marks in high school are already a national qualifier at the collegiate level."

Edwards also earned a letter in football and three in basketball Edwards joins Tyler Campbell (Jasper) and Aaron Stockstell (Iowa City, Iowa) to the 2009 signing class for the Crimson Tide.

The Alabama women's team of Coach Sandy Fowler added twins from Grove Hill. Leigh and Sarah Gilmore will compete on the women's cross country team for Coach Randy Hasenbank



beginning this fall, then run distance events for the track squad.

"We are very excited about their choice in joining the Crimson Tide family and feel it is a good fit both academically and athletically," Fowler said. "Leigh and Sarah are great athletes and will help the programs move in a positive direction immediately. They are both very athletic and will add depth in cross country, and in the middle and long distance in track and field. Both young ladies come into the program with Alabama state records."

The Gilmore sisters will come to Tuscaloosa from UMS-Wright School in Mobile, where they have been a staple on the cross country and track squads for Coach Pat Galle. While at UMS-Wright, the twins led the Lady Bulldogs to back-to-back (2005 and 2006) 4A state championships in cross country and track. UMS-Wright was 5A runner-up in cross country last fall.

Leigh has a 4A state record in the 800 with a time of 2:18. She was named MVP of the track team in 2006 and 2007 and was the 4A state champion in the 800 in 2006. Leigh teamed up with Sarah to run a 4A meet record time in the 4x800 relay.

Sarah holds the 4A state meet records at 1600 meters, 3200

meters and 4 x 800 meter relay. Sarah has four individual state titles to her credit, including an individual state title in cross country. The 2006 class 4A outdoor state championship saw her claim titles in the 1600 meter run, 3200 meter run and 4 x 800 meter relay.

Leigh and Sarah also played basketball for three years at UMS Wright and helped lead UMS to a 20 win season.

"Leigh and Sarah are outstanding students, each posting GPA's above 4.0," Hasenbank said.

In late May, Todd Bramble, Alabama's new soccer coach, added Shannon Lathrop of Birmingham's Oak Mountain High School to the Crimson Tide roster for the 2008 season. Lathrop, a 5-7 midfielder, was a 2007 all-metro selection and was voted Mountain Brook's Offensive Most Valuable Player as a senior.

"Being able to add a player of Shannon's quality at this late date is exciting," Bramble said. "Her comfort level on the ball and her tactical feel for the game make Shannon a perfect fit for our style of play. I see her competing for playing time right away."

Lathrop will be part of a group of eight newcomers to the Tide roster for 2008, Bramble's inaugural season at Alabama after a successful stint as head coach at Clemson. That core of newcomers will join an Alabama team that returns eight starters from 2007.

The Alabama Volleyball team's incoming freshman group has been named the 27th best recruiting class in the nation according to PrepVolleyball.com. That group wasn't completed until early July, when Coach Judy Green announced that Lauren Witzinger will join the Crimson Tide for the 2008 season. A 5-11 defensive specialist and outside hitter, Witzinger performed for a Huntsville High team that won four straight state championships. The 2007 Alabama State Player of the Year and the 2007 All-Metro Player of the Year was named a 2007 High School All-America by PrepVolleyball.com. She set the all-time career kills record at Huntsville. Witzinger played club volleyball for Alabama Elite.

"We are excited to have Lauren in our program," Green said. "She is a very special addition to our program because she bleeds crimson and white. It's something that we need to continue to develop in our program. We want to keep our best in-state players at home and get them to come to Alabama."

A member of the National Honor Society, she was also named a 2007 PrepVolleyball.com Academic All-America.

Witzinger has strong family ties to the University. Her father, Roland Witzinger, swam for Alabama and her uncle, Mike Butler, ran track for the Tide.

"This is an exciting day for Alabama volleyball," Green said of the national recruiting ranking. "This is the first time that we have cracked the top 30 in the country according to PrepVolleyball.com. I think it shows the efforts by our coaching staff to recruit better volleyball players every year."

Alabama was one of four Southeastern Conference schools to make PrepVolleyball.com's list.

According to PrepVolleyball.com, "The Tide added depth, versatility and athleticism to a team that graduated its setter and top two attackers, meaning there should be plenty of opportunity for this class to get on the court early in Tuscaloosa."

The 2008 freshman class consists of: Ashley Frazier, 6-1, outside hitter, from Central Catholic in Toledo, Ohio; Christina Hobbs, 6-0, middle blocker, from Atascocita in Houston, Texas; Leigh Moyer, 6-2, middle blocker, from McIntosh in Peachtree City, Georgia; Stephanie Riley, 5-7, setter, Assumption in Louisville Kentucky; and Witzinger.



Cully Payne has announced he will sign with Bama

Scout



# Where Are They Now?

## Shealy's tie to Bryant is hard to overlook

**I**t's hard to miss him. Crouched over. Hands on knees. Wearing a headset. And standing right beside Paul W. Bryant in one of the most famous Alabama football paintings ever.

It seems only fitting that the man at Bryant's side when the legendary coach earned his record-setting 315<sup>th</sup> win was the field general of Bryant's final national championship team – Steadman Shealy. Shealy quarterbacked the Crimson Tide to the national title in 1979 after having been the back-up to Jeff Rutledge on the 1978 national championship squad.

In 1981, when Bryant became the winningest coach in college football history with the Tide's 28-17 win over Auburn, Shealy was a second-year graduate assistant coach on Bryant's staff. But he wasn't just any assistant. He was Bryant's right-hand man, serving as the head coach's eyes and ears during games.

That special November night was a once-in-a-lifetime experience Shealy will forever remember.

"That was incredible to be a part of history," said Shealy, now a 50-year-old attorney. "We go into the locker room after we beat Auburn, and President (Ronald) Reagan calls and congratulates him right there. There were media from all over the world. It was an unbelievable time and atmosphere."

Few can say they brushed shoulders with greatness. Shealy, though, is one who did.

"It was the greatest privilege a young man could ever have," Shealy said of his relationship with Bryant. "I just wish every person could have had the opportunity that I had to play for Coach Bryant and coach with him for three years ... I had the greatest opportunity a young man could have, going to law school and yet at the same time still being very much involved in the football program and being able to develop a real strong relationship with Coach Bryant."

One of the things that impressed Shealy most about the famed coach was his relentless dedication to self-improvement.

"With all that he had accomplished, he was still afraid of having to go back to plowing," Shealy said of Bryant. "That inspired me, the fact that he was never satisfied with where he was. He always wanted to get a little bit better. And that's how I try to live my life—not live off of what I did yesterday but what am I going to do today, be it my walk with the Lord, or as my role as a lawyer or as a father or husband or whatever I'm involved in. I



Steadman Shealy quarterbacked Paul Bryant's last national championship team

Bryant Museum

just constantly want to get better."

As a player, Shealy possessed all the qualities Bryant looked for in a quarterback. He was tough, disciplined, confident, and he knew how to lead. He also could run, pass and make good decisions, making him the ideal fit for Alabama's ground-oriented wishbone offense.

"The wishbone offense was perfect for me because I was basically a glorified running back," said Shealy, an All-Southeastern Conference selection while at Alabama. "The way we ran the wishbone, you had to read your way out, so if the quarterback doesn't make the right decision the play normally doesn't work. I was probably really the last quarterback to call his own plays at Alabama. One thing that meant a lot to me was that Coach Bryant made it very clear that he believed in what I was about, so that instilled a lot of confidence in me."

If there's one play Shealy is most remembered for by Alabama fans it's his winning touchdown run against Auburn in 1979. The gutsy quarterback keeper—ranked as one of Alabama's top 25 plays ever and one of the historic highlights shown on Bryant-Denny Stadium's Jumbotron before games—preserved the Tide's undefeated season and kept it on track for national title Number 11.

Shealy's touchdown run came midway through the fourth quarter and capped an 82-yard drive. Alabama won the game 25-18.

"What most people don't realize is that Coach Bryant had benched the first-team offense because we had fumbled five times in the third quarter, not the offense alone because one of those was a fumbled punt," Shealy said. "Things were just falling apart. We were up 17-3 and the next thing you know we're down 18-17 and then Coach Bryant puts in the second-team offense. Only Coach Bryant would do that in the fourth quarter. They went out there and were three-and-out, so the next time we went out there we made sure we covered 82 yards in eight plays, and I was able to score the winning touchdown and two-point conversion to continue our quest for an undefeated season."

Alabama completed that undefeated 12-0 season a few weeks later with a 24-9 thumping of Arkansas in the Sugar Bowl.

"My junior and sophomore years we had gone 11-1, and we had all decided we were going to go undefeated that next year," Shealy said. "When you set a goal and you decide to do something and you do it, there's nothing greater."

During Shealy's three-year playing career at The Capstone, the Tide went 34-2 and captured two national championships and three SEC championships. Lots of good players and lots of stiff competition between those players were some of the keys to that successful run, Shealy said. Attitude was another.

"We never wondered whether we were going to win; it was how bad we were going to win," Shealy said. "That was what was instilled in us as players—that we were the best; and that's what was expected of us."



After completing his playing career at Alabama, Shealy was taken in the Canadian Football League draft and had the opportunity to try out for an NFL team as a free agent. Bryant advised Shealy to stay at The University, go to law school, and join the football staff as a graduate assistant coach. Shealy, an Academic All-America, took Bryant's advice.

As it turned out, Shealy was there as Bryant's assistant when the 69-year-old coached his final season at Alabama in 1982, and, in fact, even served as the co-host of the hour-long, weekly "Bear Bryant Show" on television.

"I wasn't any good, but we had a great time," Shealy said of his involvement in the show. "I was probably the first person to know that he was going to retire. I never dreamed I'd have a real integral part of his last three years."

And when Bryant passed away a month after coaching his final game, Shealy was there again. He did the memorial service for The University at the request of Coach Bryant's wife, Mary Harmon.

"That was a real highlight of my life to have that privilege," Shealy said.

Following Bryant's death, Shealy remained at Alabama one more season, with Ray Perkins' staff in 1983, before beginning his law career. Twenty-four years later, Shealy is still at it, working a variety of civil cases out of two offices, one in Tuscaloosa and one in his hometown of Dothan. His firm is Shealy, Crum and Pike.

"I enjoy helping people," Shealy said of his practice. "People who have suffered a devastating loss in the form of injury or death, I like helping them get their lives back together."

Shealy also spent eight years on the state school board and dabbled in politics.

"I had always thought early on that I might want to be governor or United State Senator, but being in politics some and getting a little taste of it I realized that wasn't what I wanted to do," he said. "I enjoyed being a full-time, full-fledged lawyer and helping people and trying cases. That's what I enjoy and feel like God's called me to do, as well as speaking. I've been speaking all over the state and really the Southeast since I was about 14 years old."

When not working on a case, Shealy is busy being a husband and father of five. His wife, Ann, is a former Alabama gymnast, and his oldest daughter, Jacqueline, is following in mom's footsteps. Jacqueline, who overcame a serious knee injury during her freshman season, will be a junior for Coach Sarah Patterson's squad this year.

"It's great to see your children participate in what they love doing and being right there for them and with them and understanding a lot of what they're going through in the college environment," Shealy said. "When you've been through it, like I went through it and Ann went through it, it's neat, and you understand the pressure of what she's going through."

The fact that Jacqueline is doing what she loves to do at Alabama, a place which means so much to Shealy and his wife, makes it even more special.

"We feel like Alabama is the only place to go to college," Shealy said.

And more Crimson Tide-clad Shealys may be on the way soon. Shealy's other children are: Steadman, who is a senior at Alabama Christian Academy this year; Anna Catherine, 15; Robert, 12; and John David, 9. Steadman plays football and baseball for ACA, while Anna Catherine's current passion is jumping horses. Robert and John David play baseball and tennis.

"We're a real involved family, and, of course, we all love to hunt," Shealy said. "That's something we do as a family. But our

walk with the Lord and serving Jesus is the central point of our family and our lives."

For Shealy, life is very good right now.

"There's nothing greater than God honoring you with a wonderful wife and five wonderful children," he said. "I feel like the most blessed person around."

As far as the current state of Alabama football, Shealy, who attends all home games, likes what he sees.

"There's no doubt in my mind we're headed to the top," he said. "The facilities are in place, the leadership is in place, and now it's just a matter of getting the players to understand that we're all about winning. I think that's just a process that has to be re-developed, and I feel like Coach Saban is the right guy to do it."

While names like Julio Jones and Jerrell Harris are the ones drawing all the attention of Tide fans these days, the name Steadman Shealy and his place in Alabama football history, including his indelible image in the 315 painting, remain secure.

"I just hope they think of a guy who knew how to win," Shealy said of how he hopes to be remembered by Alabama fans. "If I had a gift, it was finding a way to always win." ■

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Steadman Shealy is one of the former Alabama football stars featured in "What It Means To Be Crimson Tide," a book by BAMA Editor Kirk McNair in cooperation with former Alabama Coach Gene Stallings. To order the book (\$27.95 plus tax, shipping and handling), call (205) 345-5074. If you wish, Kirk McNair will autograph the book at no charge.*



Steadman Shealy remembered for winning touchdown run vs. Auburn

Bryant Museum



# 'BAMA Scorecard

## Notebooking Crimson Tide Sports

### **BIG GIFT**

Alabama Football Coach Nick Saban and his wife, Terry, have a history of giving, and they have made The University of Alabama one of their prime recipients. The latest gift from the Sabans to UofA is for \$1 million. Additionally, they hope to inspire others to give to the cause.

Nick Saban had barely settled in as Alabama head football coach last year when he and his wife, Terry, presented a check for \$100,000 to The University for scholarships.

Now the Sabans have made a big jump in that support with a pledge of \$1 million to UA for scholarships.

The Saban scholarships are designed specifically for first-generation college students. Six first-generation college students have already benefited from the \$100,000 gift the Sabans made upon their arrival at The Capstone in January 2007.

"Nick and Terry have a special place in their hearts for students who are the first in their families to go to college," said UA President Dr. Robert E. Witt. "We appreciate their generosity and the ongoing commitment they have to this University and the students."

"We are especially pleased that the Sabans have graciously allowed us to use their commitment to encourage and challenge others to establish first-generation scholarships that will make it possible for many deserving students to realize their dream of getting a college education. Think how many students will benefit if we work together to multiply the impact of this contribution."

Nick Saban said, "Terry and I have always felt that the education of our youth is a key to a successful future in our state as well as our nation. As first-generation graduates ourselves, we support first-generation scholarships and hope that many of our fans will take the challenge and help a first-generation student get the opportunity to obtain an education."

To contribute to the Sabans' first-generation scholarship challenge, go to <http://www.ua.edu/giving.html> or contact the UA Development Office at 205-348-4767.

### **NICK'S KIDS AND MORE**

The Alabama scholarships aren't the only beneficiaries from Nick Saban and his family. The Nick's Kids Charity has raised over \$540,000 in his two years at Alabama. That money, raised from speaking engagements and a golf tournament, goes to child-specific charities in the state of Alabama, over 115 so far.

Beyond that, Terry Saban has spear-headed fund-raising events at the past two A-Day games in the spring, the first year to benefit Enterprise High School, which had been destroyed by a tornado that killed six students, and last spring for the benefit of University of Alabama libraries.

### **SUN SHINERS**

Former Alabama football greats Cornelius Bennett and Derrick Thomas were among 75 players named to the Sun Bowl Association's 75th Anniversary All-Sun Bowl Team.

The Crimson Tide has appeared in three Sun Bowl games with wins over SMU in 1983, Washington in 1986, and Army in

1988. Alabama has appeared in an NCAA-best 55 bowl games with an NCAA-leading 31 wins.

Bennett played in the 1983 Sun Bowl against SMU and the 1986 Sun Bowl against Washington. Bennett notched seven tackles in an upset win over the sixth-ranked Mustangs in 1983 and was named the Sun Bowl MVP in 1986 against the Huskies with 11 tackles and a sack. He was named a 2007 Legend of the Sun Bowl.

Thomas was on the 1986 Sun Bowl squad and then helped the 1988 team record a comeback win over Army. He made eight tackles and broke up a pass against the Huskies in 1986. Thomas was named the 1988 Jimmy Rogers, Jr. Most Valuable Lineman with sixth tackles, two for loss, a pass breakup and two blocked field goals.

The Sun Bowl is the nation's second oldest bowl game and has had 75 different programs compete in the game, which is more than any other bowl game.

### **HUDSON COMPLETES STAFF**

New Alabama Women's Basketball Coach Wendell Hudson has a staff that won't have much trouble finding its way around the campus.

Hudson added two former Crimson Tide players to the coaching staff, retained one assistant from the staff of Stephany Smith, and named a director of basketball relations from the Crimson Tide men's program.

And, of course, Hudson was an All-America player for the Tide and a history-making player as the first scholarshiped African-American Crimson Tide athlete.

Joni Crenshaw, a star player for Bama under Rick Moody, 1998-2001, is Hudson's associate head coach. She comes to Alabama from Louisiana Tech, where she had the same title and served as recruiting coordinator. Among her recruiting successes at Louisiana Tech was landing Shanavia Dowdell, 2006 Miss Basketball in Alabama. She also signed the 2006 Miss Basketball from Mississippi. Crenshaw is a native of Meridian.

She was at Louisiana Tech for three years after a three-year stint at Troy, where she was also recruiting coordinator.

She was All-SEC Academic each of her four years at Alabama and was captain of the Tide as a senior.

Hudson retained Ty Evans as assistant coach. Evans was with Smith for one year after two years at Georgetown and two years at St. Louis around a year of overseas coaching.

Evans was a two-time captain at Wisconsin-Whitewater, where he earned his degree in 1995. He also played professionally in Europe.

Stacey Franklin, a former Alabama standout who had been coaching at Mississippi State, was added as a Bama assistant. Franklin has 12 years experience as an assistant coach in the SEC, going to Starkville in 1996. State played in eight post-season tournaments.

She played at Alabama, 1989-93, and was co-captain of the team as a senior when Bama went 23-7 and made it to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. She was a three-time Academic All-SEC selection.



The Smyrna, Georgia, native served as an assistant coach in softball and basketball at Tuscaloosa Academy before beginning her college career.

Hudson completed his staff by naming Heather Mesalam director of basketball operations.

Mesalam recently graduated from The Capstone with a degree in Marketing. The Indianapolis, Indiana, native spent four seasons as a manager for Mark Gottfried and the Alabama men's basketball team. Mesalam became the first female manager for the men's squad and was the head manager the last two seasons.

## NEW TENNIS ASSISTANT

Bo Hodge, a former Georgia tennis star, has been named assistant tennis coach under Head Coach Billy Pate at Alabama. Hodge joined the Bama staff after completing his degree requirements at Georgia. He had played and coached on the professional circuit for several years after completing his eligibility for the Bulldogs.

Hodge brings impressive credentials as both a player and coach to the Crimson Tide staff having served stints as a coach and hitting partner for Venus and Serena Williams in 2005-06, and serving as coach of ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) professional Mardy Fish in 2007. Hodge served as a volunteer coach at Georgia from August 2006 to May 2008, helping lead the Bulldogs to consecutive NCAA national championships while completing his undergraduate degree in preparation for a coaching career.

A touring professional on the ATP Tour from 2004-06, Hodge embarked on a coaching career when his playing days ended. Having played and coached in Europe, South America, Australia, Asia and the United States, Hodge brings experience and impressive international connections to his post on Pate's staff. As a player, Hodge was a four-time All-America at Georgia from 2001-04 while playing on three Southeastern Conference championship teams (2001, 2002 and 2004) and one national championship team (2001). The second-ranked college player in the nation in both 2001 and 2004, Hodge spent much of his career ranked in the nation's top five in both singles and doubles and reached the NCAA doubles finals in 2004 with teammate John Isner.

The Athens native helped Athens Academy to the 1998 state title, then moved to Boca Raton, Florida, to study under Coach Stanford Boster.

Hodge is the son of former Georgia football tight end Mark Hodge.

## POTTER'S SON TO OLE MISS

Ryan Potter's path to becoming a college golf coach isn't all that surprising. He had quite a role model to follow. Potter was recently announced as assistant coach at Ole Miss under Ernest Ross.

Ryan's father, Mic Potter, has been head coach of the nationally-ranked Alabama women's golf team. Before that, Potter established Hall of Fame credentials as head coach at Furman for 23 years.

Ryan played at Furman, then moved with his family to Tuscaloosa. He worked at Ol' Colony Golf Course in Tuscaloosa and was assistant director for First Tee of Tuscaloosa, a youth golf program. He did an internship with the American Junior Golf Association based in Georgia. He was the graduate assistant for athletic compliance at Alabama and followed that up as the volunteer assistant coach for the Alabama

men's golf team this past season. The Crimson Tide finished 13th at the NCAA Championships at Purdue this year.

## NO GOOOOAAALLL!

Alabama soccer sophomore goalkeeper Justine Bernier of Oakville, Ontario, kept busy over the summer by representing her country and getting to travel the world in doing so. Bernier and Team Canada sailed through the CONCACAF women's under-20 championship to earn the title by the way of a 1-0 decision over rival USA in Mexico.

The Alabama single season record holder in saves has been in the team Canada pool at the U-16, U-17, and U-18 levels. Team Canada secured a trip to Chile this November for the U-20 World Cup. Team USA and Mexico qualified as well.

Canada won its last CONCACAF championship in 2004 in Ottawa, also against its rivals from the south. Canada has participated in every FIFA U-20 women's World Cup since the tournament's inception in 2002 and won a silver medal as the host nation at the inaugural event.

Canada topped Mexico in the semifinals securing its spot in the oldest FIFA youth world championships for women after defeating the host country 2-1. Canada opened the tournament with a win over Nicaragua (2-0) and followed that with wins over Jamaica (3-1) and Costa Rica (4-0).

## TERIN HUMPHREY INDUCTED

Alabama gymnast Terin Humphrey, a two-time NCAA Champion during her Crimson Tide tenure, was inducted into the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame this summer as part of the 2003 World Championship team.

"Terin's induction into the USAG Hall of Fame is a testament to the tremendous career that she enjoyed, one that saw her reach tremendous heights on the national, international and collegiate stages," Alabama Coach Sarah Patterson said.

Humphrey and her teammates, Courtney Kupets, Chellsie Memmel, Carly Patterson, Tasha Schwikert, Hollie Vise and alternates Annia Hatch and Ashley Postell, claimed the United States' first team world title, as well as three individual event medals in 2003.

Humphrey, Kupets, Patterson and Hatch went on to compete at the 2004 Olympic Games, where they won the team silver medal.

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Humphrey added an Olympic Silver medal of her own at the 2004 Games when she took second on the uneven bars.

As a collegian, Humphrey won the 2005 and 2007 NCAA Uneven Bars Championships and was a 10-time All-America. A two-time Academic All-SEC honoree, the Bates City, Missouri, native also won Southeastern Conference and NCAA Regional titles.

### ARTHUR ASHE WINNER

Alabama Gymnast Ashley O'Neal has been named a 2008 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar by "Diverse Issues in Higher Education" magazine.

"Diverse Issues in Higher Education" established the Ashe Awards to honor undergraduate students of color who have made achieving both academically and athletically a winning combination. To be included, students have to compete in an intercollegiate sport; maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.2; and be active on their campuses or in their communities.

"This award encompasses everything our program strives for—success in the classroom and the gym as well as being active and positive members of the community," Alabama Coach Sarah Patterson said. "I am very proud of Ashley and what she has accomplished through hard work and determination. She is certainly very deserving of this honor."

During the first three years of her Crimson Tide career, O'Neal has been a mainstay on the balance beam and floor exercise as well as a standout student, twice earning Southeastern Conference Academic Honor Roll honors and earning a perfect 4.0 grade point average last fall. After her sophomore year, the Kennesaw, Georgia, native was honored by her teammates with the Lewis Each Courage Award.

### BASEBALL IN MONTGOMERY

The Alabama Crimson Tide baseball team will meet the Auburn Tigers in the inaugural Capital City Classic, it was announced by the city of Montgomery and the Montgomery Biscuits Baseball Club.

Alabama and Auburn will play one game in 2009 and one game in 2010.

"We are very happy to bring these prestigious programs back to Montgomery," said Biscuits owner Sherrie Myers. "In addition to being a wonderful and entertaining game, the City of Montgomery is pleased to reinstate a great tradition."

The two-game series will take place Tuesday, March 10, 2009 and Tuesday, March 9, 2010 at Riverwalk Stadium, the home of the Class AA Montgomery Biscuits. Alabama will be the home team in 2009, while Auburn will be the home team in 2010. Both games are tentatively scheduled for 6:30 p.m. starts and both teams have agreed to a rain date in case of inclement weather.

"We are very excited to renew our series with Auburn in the city of Montgomery," Alabama Coach Jim Wells said. "All the games in Montgomery have had tremendous success and the crowds have been great. Riverwalk Stadium is one of the top baseball facilities in our state and we are excited about showcasing Crimson Tide baseball to the many loyal fans throughout the state of Alabama."

This will be the first time Alabama and Auburn have met in a non-conference regular season game since the 1996 season. The Crimson Tide and Tigers met annually throughout state during the 1980s and 1990s, including a seven-game series at Montgomery's Paterson Field from 1990-96. Alabama won four of those seven meetings, including a 2-0 decision in the last meeting in Montgomery on April 2, 1996. In 1993 and 1995, the Tide and Tiger's played one SEC game at Paterson Field. Auburn won 11-3 in 1993, while Alabama beat top-ranked Auburn 10-5 in 1995 in front of a then state-record 8,543 fans on May 12, 1995.

Alabama has compiled a 5-7 (.417) all-time record in the

city of Montgomery, dating back to its first game against the Cincinnati Reds during the 1918 season. The Crimson Tide has also played Vanderbilt (1924), Georgia Tech (1926) and Troy (2007) in the capital city.

After an early booking period as a special benefit to season ticket holders of the Biscuits, Tide and Tigers, tickets to the MAX Capital City Classic will go on sale to the general public this November. Ticket information and other game-related information is available at the game's website, [www.maxcapitalcityclassic.com](http://www.maxcapitalcityclassic.com).

### INCOMING GOLFER SHINES

Bud Cauley, an incoming freshman for Coach Jay Seawell's Alabama golf team, was very impressive in his junior career. And he finished with a flourish, tying for medalist honors at the prestigious Toyota Junior World Cup in Japan.

Cauley, a native of Jacksonville, Florida, was one of four Junior golfers representing the USA in the tournament held in Toyota City, Japan. The 16 national teams gathered came from regional qualifiers held across six continents. More than 60 national teams were originally represented to determine the world champion, which was Norway. Norway won the cup by three strokes over defending champions Sweden. It is the fourth straight year the competition has been held at Chukyo Golf Club's Ishino Course.

Cauley shot 68-67-67-70/272. He tied with Norway's Anders Kristiansen at 12-under to finish three shots ahead of Sweden's Pontus Gad who shot 64 in the final round.

A part of the tournament was a driving contest and Cauley finished seventh with a drive of 290 yards.

### STALEY STAYING

Don Staley, who established the Alabama soccer program, retired after the completion of the 2007 season. But Staley didn't want to leave sports completely and he didn't want to leave Tuscaloosa. Although several colleges attempted to lure him back to the soccer field, Staley got his wish and remains in the Tuscaloosa sports scene.

The Tuscaloosa Sports Foundation was established in 2007 with a mission of the foundation to attract quality sports events to the area at the youth, amateur and professional level. A goal is to make the area a regional, state, national and international destination.

The non-profit corporation sponsored last December's Robert "Rah Rah" Scott Basketball Classic in Coleman Coliseum.

Staley led the Crimson Tide program for 14 seasons, accumulating a record of 135-128-12 at The Capstone. Staley's selection as executive director was based on much more than his role of soccer coach. He served on the 1996 Birmingham Olympic Committee and has a wide range of experience in supervising athletics events and championships, including those of the Southeastern Conference and the NCAA.

Retired banker Charles R. "Chuck" Sittason was the driving force in the formation of the Tuscaloosa Sports Foundation. The former chairman of Regions Bank is the inaugural and current president of the foundation. Vice President is former Alabama Basketball Coach and Kentucky Athletics Director C.M. Newton, who is retired and living in Tuscaloosa.

### BATTLE HONORED

Former Alabama football star Bill Battle, a successful coach and ultrasuccessful businessman, has been selected by the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame for one of its major awards. Battle was an outstanding end for Alabama under legendary Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant. This year he will receive the NFF award for Outstanding Contribution to Amateur Football.

The announcement was made by Archie Manning, who serves as chairman of the NFF.



Battle is in very, very good company as the NFF 2008 Major Awards were announced.

The Gold Medal is presented to John Glenn, former astronaut and United States senator. The Distinguished American Award goes to business tycoon T. Boone Pickens for his work as a philanthropist. Gene Smith, director of athletics at Ohio State, was selected for the John L. Toner Award.

"We are thrilled to honor this year's major award winners as not only leaders within our football community but as outstanding members of society," said NFF President & CEO Steve Hatchell. "The NFF mission is to build leaders through football and these gentlemen are without a doubt the definition of that creed." Each of these awards will be presented at the NFF Annual Awards Dinner on December 9 at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York. Also that evening, the NFF will recognize the National Scholar-Athlete class (announced in the fall); award the Draddy Trophy, presented by HealthSouth; and induct the 2008 Football Bowl Subdivision College Football Hall of Fame Class.

Here is what the NFF said about Battle and his award:

The Outstanding Contribution To Amateur Football Award is intended to provide national recognition to an individual(s) whose efforts and activities in support of the Foundation and its goals have been local in nature. It also applies to individuals who have made significant contributions to the game of football either in the manner in which it is played and coached or to the manner in which it is enjoyed by spectators.

A legend in the world of collegiate marketing, Bill Battle leveraged his experiences as a player for Bear Bryant at Alabama and as a head coach at Tennessee to build the Collegiate Licensing Company (CLC) into a major force in the \$4 billion collegiate merchandise market, earning more than \$800 million in royalties for his clients over the years.

His passion for the collegiate athletics and a strong interest

in marketing led him to launch Golden Eagle Enterprises in 1981, and he landed his coach, Bear Bryant, and alma mater, Alabama, as his first licensing client. By 1983, Battle had signed eight other schools and moved the renamed Collegiate Licensing Company to Atlanta from Selma. With a unrelenting focus on providing his clients greater exposure and the broadest range of licensing services, Battle built CLC into a national leader in the \$4 billion annual market for collegiate licensed merchandise. Now, the nation's oldest and largest collegiate licensing company, the company boasts more than 200 colleges, universities, bowls and conferences as clients, representing more than 75 percent of the current annual market. In 2007, Battle sold the company to IMG, and he remains active in the company, serving as its chairman with his son Pat overseeing the day-to-day operations as president.

A member of Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant's first national championship team in 1961, Battle followed his playing days by entering the coaching profession as an assistant at the University of Oklahoma. From 1964-1965, he served at the U.S. Military Academy, including work as an assistant football coach. He arrived at the University of Tennessee in 1966 as an assistant to Doug Dickey, and in 1970, when Dickey left for Florida, Battle, 28 years old, assumed the head coaching position, becoming the youngest coach at the time, tallying a 59-22-2 record and five straight bowl appearances with three squads finishing in the top ten.

A native of Birmingham, Battle was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of fame in 1982 and was the first member inducted into the National Collegiate Licensing Association Hall of Fame in 2000. He has been named one of Street & Smith's 20 Most Influential People in College Athletics. He currently serves on the boards of Collegiate Images and Birmingham Southern College. He holds a master's degree from Oklahoma and a bachelor's degree from Alabama.

# Television Worth Watching!

## *Time Well Spent* a production of Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Inc.



*Time Well Spent* is a television program devoted solely to "Rural Alabama," and each episode includes people, places, events and lifestyles you've only heard about and wondered "do they really exist?"

### What stations and times?

Montgomery WAKA - Ch. 8, Sat. 11:30 a.m. - 12 noon  
Sun. 5:30 - 6:00 a.m.

Montgomery/Dothan WSFA - Ch. 12, Sun. 6:00 - 6:30 a.m.  
Mobile/Pensacola WKRK - Ch. 5, Sun. 5:00 - 5:30 a.m.  
Birmingham WVTM - Ch. 13, Sun. 5:30 - 6:00 a.m.  
Huntsville WAFF - Ch. 48, Sun. 6:30 - 7:00 a.m.

Whatever your age, this fresh, informative and educational show will have you and your entire family eagerly anticipating each episode. *Time Well Spent* covers topics like traditional crafts passed down from generation to generation, gardening, training a horse, raising livestock, planning a hunting or fishing trip with the family and other special activities. It's about real people, places and lifestyles and it's steeped in the traditions and family values that make up rural Alabama. *Time Well Spent* is about living in a time long ago that hasn't really gone anywhere. It's just a little harder to find.

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# 2008 Alabama Fall Schedules

## FOOTBALL

| DATE     | OPPONENT          | SITE                    | SERIES RECORD      |
|----------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Aug. 30  | Clemson           | Atlanta                 | UofA leads 11-3    |
| Sept. 6  | Tulane            | Tuscaloosa              | UofA leads 26-11-3 |
| Sept. 13 | Western Kentucky  | Tuscaloosa              | First Meeting      |
| Sept. 20 | Arkansas          | Fayetteville            | UofA leads 11-7-0  |
| Sept. 27 | Georgia           | Athens                  | UofA leads 35-25-4 |
| Oct. 4   | Kentucky          | Tuscaloosa              | UofA leads 33-2-1  |
| Oct. 18  | Ole Miss          | Tuscaloosa              | UofA leads 44-9-2  |
| Oct. 25  | Tennessee         | Knoxville               | UofA leads 45-38-7 |
| Nov. 1   | Arkansas State    | Tuscaloosa (Homecoming) | UofA leads 1-0-0   |
| Nov. 8   | LSU               | Baton Rouge             | UofA leads 43-23-5 |
| Nov. 15  | Mississippi State | Tuscaloosa              | UofA leads 72-17-3 |
| Nov. 29  | Auburn            | Tuscaloosa              | UofA leads 38-33-1 |
| Dec. 6   | SEC Championship  | Atlanta                 | 2 wins, 3 losses   |

## VOLLEYBALL

| DATE        | OPPONENT                                                        | TIME |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Aug. 29     | Western Kentucky                                                | 7:00 |
| Aug. 30     | Nicholls State                                                  | 1:30 |
| Aug. 30     | Iowa                                                            | 7:30 |
| Sept. 5-6   | @ Miami Invitational<br>(Alabama, Miami, Virginia Commonwealth) |      |
| Sept. 12-13 | Hampton Inn Bama Bash                                           |      |
| Sept. 12    | Samford                                                         | 1:30 |
| Sept. 12    | South Florida                                                   | 7:00 |
| Sept. 13    | Murray State                                                    | 1:30 |
| Sept. 19    | @ Kentucky                                                      | 7:00 |
| Sept. 21    | @ Tennessee                                                     | 1:30 |
| Sept. 26    | Auburn                                                          | 7:00 |
| Oct. 3      | Florida                                                         | 7:00 |
| Oct. 5      | South Carolina                                                  | 1:30 |
| Oct. 10     | @ Arkansas                                                      | 7:00 |
| Oct. 12     | @ Ole Miss                                                      | 1:30 |
| Oct. 17     | Georgia                                                         | 7:00 |
| Oct. 19     | LSU                                                             | 1:30 |
| Oct. 24     | Tennessee                                                       | 7:00 |
| Oct. 26     | Kentucky                                                        | 1:30 |
| Oct. 29     | @ Mississippi State                                             | 7:00 |
| Nov. 2      | @ Auburn                                                        | 1:30 |
| Nov. 7      | @ LSU                                                           | 7:00 |
| Nov. 9      | @ Georgia                                                       | 1:30 |
| Nov. 14     | Ole Miss                                                        | 7:00 |
| Nov. 16     | Arkansas                                                        | 1:30 |
| Nov. 21     | @ South Carolina                                                | 7:00 |
| Nov. 23     | @ Florida                                                       | 1:30 |
| Nov. 28     | Mississippi State                                               | 7:00 |

## SOCCER

| DATE     | OPPONENT                         | TIME  |
|----------|----------------------------------|-------|
| Aug. 16  | Jackson State (Exh)              | 5:00  |
| Aug. 29  | @ Memphis                        | 7:00  |
| Aug. 31  | Jacksonville State               |       |
| Sept. 5  | @ Cal State-Fullerton            | 7:30  |
| Sept. 7  | @ Southern Cal                   | 3:00  |
| Sept. 12 | Samford                          | 7:30  |
| Sept. 14 | Wright State                     | 2:30  |
| Sept. 19 | Tennessee-Chattanooga            | 7:30  |
| Sept. 21 | Mississippi Valley State         | 2:30  |
| Sept. 26 | @ Vanderbilt                     | 6:00  |
| Sept. 28 | @ Kentucky                       | 11:00 |
| Oct. 3   | Mississippi State                | 7:00  |
| Oct. 5   | Ole Miss                         | 1:00  |
| Oct. 10  | @ Arkansas                       | 7:00  |
| Oct. 12  | @ LSU                            | 1:00  |
| Oct. 17  | South Carolina                   | 7:00  |
| Oct. 19  | Florida                          | 1:00  |
| Oct. 23  | @ Tennessee                      | 5:00  |
| Oct. 26  | Georgia                          | 1:00  |
| Oct. 31  | @ Auburn                         | 7:00  |
| Nov. 5-9 | SEC Tournament<br>@ Orange Beach |       |

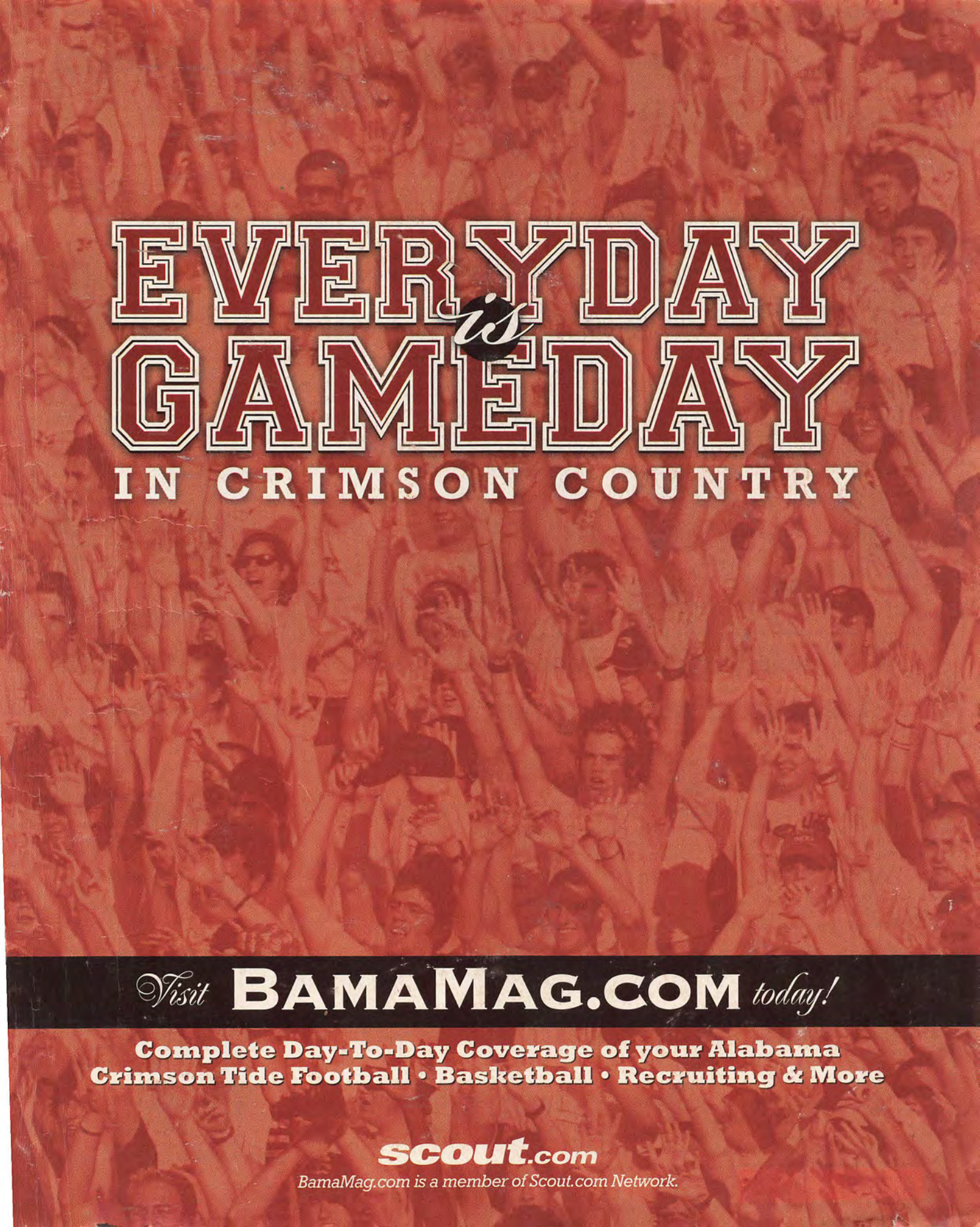
## MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

| DATE      | EVENT                                               |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Sept. 5   | Tennessee-Chattanooga Powerade                      |
| Sept., 20 | CRIMSON CLASSIC                                     |
| Oct. 4    | Dellinger @ Eugene, Ore., OR<br>Auburn Invitational |
| Oct. 18   | Pre-NCAA @ Terre Haute, Ind.                        |
| Nov. 3    | SEC Championships @ Starkville                      |
| Nov. 15   | NCAA Regional @ Knoxville                           |
| Nov. 24   | NCAA Championships @ Terre Haute                    |

## WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

| DATE      | EVENT                            |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Sept. 5   | Belmont Opener @ Nashville       |
| Sept., 20 | CRIMSON CLASSIC                  |
| Sept. 27  | Loyola Lakefront @ Chicago       |
| Oct. 11   | Chile Pepper @ Fayetteville      |
| Oct. 27   | SEC Championships @ Starkville   |
| Nov. 15   | NCAA Regional @ Knoxville        |
| Nov. 24   | NCAA Championships @ Terre Haute |





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